

LONDON WEEKLY NEWS & Hammersmith CHRONICLE



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Thursday, November 5th 2015



HOME TRUTHS Desperate residents from the West Kensington and Gibbs Green estates are urging the government to stop their homes being demolished as part of the controversial Earls Court redevelopment. SEE PAGE 3

Extension fever grips borough

England's home improvement hotspot – *Page 4*

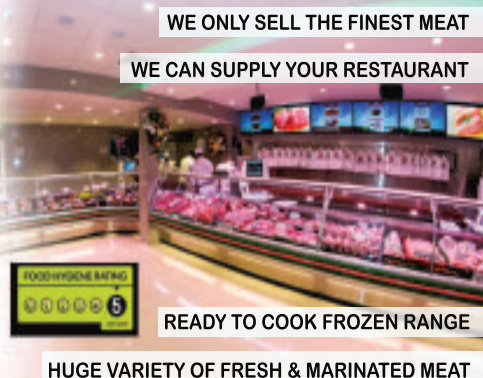
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'Alco-cop tax' could make clubs pay bill for policing

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London lays on a heroes' welcome for war veterans

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Maradona joins football unity team born in London

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DRAINAGE BLUEPRINT WILL CREATE MORE GREEN SPACES FOR LONDONERS

Creative vision to stop capital drowning

LONDON may be at risk from major flooding by 2050 without a radical new sustainable drainage system to support over-capacity sewers, according to a new draft report led by the Mayor of London.

Boris Johnson, in partnership with Thames Water, the Environment Agency and London Councils, this week published the first London Sustainable Drainage Action Plan for consultation, identifying potential flooding hotspots across the city and proposing innovative ways of diverting rain back from the sewers into the soil with rain gardens or green roofs.

A flooding 'heat map' published this week shows the areas of London where the sewer network will be at full capacity by 2050, with associated flooding risk.

Some 17 per cent of permeable ground surface in London has been lost over the last 40 years, largely thanks to



FROM THE
MAYOR'S OFFICE

the trend for home-owners to pave over their front gardens. This has effectively 'waterproofed' the city, driving more rainwater into London's traditional drainage system which is already 150 years old. Without action, in time the capital could be vulnerable to flooding caused even by normal rainfall.

At the same time the Mayor is supporting a much-needed modernisation of the London sewerage system through

the construction of the Thames Tideway Tunnel – a major new sewer that will protect the River Thames from sewerage overflows. Bazalgette Tunnel Limited are constructing the tunnel and will sponsor the creation of a full-time post at the Greater London Authority to work in concert to implement the London Sustainable Drainage Action Plan.

The draft plan was launched by the Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy Matthew Pencharz at a new rain garden in Tower Hamlets, part-funded by the Mayor. The site, formerly the dead-end of a public highway which attracted fly-tippers and anti-social behaviour, has now been transformed into a new public space, combining the functions of flood defence and a new cycle route, edible plant gardens and outdoor seating. This approach is backed by Thames Water, who will give £20 million for similar innovative projects.

Mr Pencharz said: "Sustainable drainage is a win-win for London – reducing flood risk while also increasing the amount of green space in our city,

which is great for providing new community spaces, improving air quality and beautifying our streets. We need new sewers like the Thames Tideway Tunnel but cannot keep building them endlessly, which is why sustainable drainage is necessary. This action plan is just part of a wider initiative by the Mayor of London to encourage sustainable development, which is vital to support our city's population as it continues to grow."

Thames Water Director Richard Ay-lard said: "We work really hard to make sure our sewers are as empty as possible whenever heavy rain is expected but it's important we also look at how to reduce surface water getting into them in the first place. We've set aside £20 million to help support sustainable drainage projects across our patch over the next five years. Our aim is to help create at least 20 hectares, which is equivalent to about 30 football pitches, of green infrastructure to capture rainwater by 2020."

Chair of London Councils' Transport and Environment Committee Cllr Julian Bell said: "Flooding is a very real threat

for significant numbers of people in London and London needs a robust and sustainable response to address this now to avoid an even bigger problem in the future. The plan contains some key measures which, if implemented in a timely way and correctly, will be of real benefit. The net increase in London's green infrastructure will not only make London a better place to live but will also reduce the amount of rainwater entering the sewer system and hence reduce the risk of flooding."

Deputy Director of London for the Environment Agency Simon Moody said: "The government is allocating £12 million over six years to help London boroughs manage surface flood risk, but these projects alone will not eliminate the threat. The London Sustainable Drainage Action Plan identifies opportunities to manage rainwater sustainably for the benefit of the people, businesses and environment of London. I welcome the consultation and hearing from other organisations about how they can help deliver this ambitious plan."



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NEWS FROM HAMMERSMITH

LWN

Residents fighting redevelopment plan urge minister to keep bulldozers at bay

BY JACK DIXON

jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

DESPERATE residents have called for government intervention to prevent their homes being demolished as part of the controversial Earls Court redevelopment.

People living on the West Kensington and Gibbs Green estates, which are set to be bulldozed as part of the deal, took their fight to Whitehall last week, calling on communities and local government secretary Greg Clark MP to intervene.

Campaigners presented their own alternative plan for the 760 threatened homes and urged the secretary of state to take action by following up a legal loophole.

Hammersmith and Fulham council is currently negotiating a new settlement with developer Capco.

But residents say they want ownership of the two estates to be transferred from the council to a community-owned group.

The latest protests against the redevelopment came as the exhibition centre's 1,300 tonne roof was removed and lowered



■ **HOME TRUTHS:** Residents make their point. Inset: communities secretary Greg Clark MP.

onto the ground for deconstruction.

Homeowner Iona Bain, who handed Mr Clark the plan and a petition signed by residents of more than half the homes on the estates, said she had serious concerns about the project.

"I am very worried about this scheme and have lived with this worry for years while the area has been blighted by uncertainty," she said.

"I worked very hard to buy my flat here and I have invested a lot of money and time in my community to make it my home. I feel totally let down by the promise of homeownership. I just hope the secretary of state will listen to us and support the will of the local community."

The Earls Court 'masterplan' includes proposals for 7,500 new homes built around four 'urban villages' and a high

street. Outline planning permission for the scheme has been granted but residents living in the development area are fighting to save their homes from demolition. The affected residents are calling on Mr Clark to permit them a 'right to transfer'



ownership of the two estates to a community-owned landlord controlled by the residents themselves.

The original deal with Capco was agreed by the council's previous Conservative administration and the current Labour leadership was elected last year on a manifesto commitment to oppose the scheme.

Council leaders have said they will work hard to secure the best settlement for residents but that there are no legal grounds on which to stop the demolition. In a recent letter to residents of the two estates, council leader Stephen Cowan said: "Some residents have been told there is a chance that the estates have not been sold and that they can stop the demolition by transferring ownership to another organisation ... Our firm legal advice is that is wrong."

"Given the comprehensive legal advice we have received saying that this development cannot be legally stopped, our job is to get the best possible deal for you."

He added: "We are determined to achieve a much better deal. That must include a new home in the area, significantly increased compensation and a much-improved package of other benefits for resident tenants, leaseholders and freeholders."

However, Keith Drew, chair of the West Ken Gibbs Green Community Homes not-for-profit organisation set up to drive the campaign, said residents were still hopeful of saving their homes.

"The community has been kept out of these discussions," he said. "We believe we can achieve a much more satisfactory regeneration scheme by retaining popular housing and building new homes on infill sites around the estates. The majority of residents have consistently opposed demolition – 80 per cent according to the council's own consultation in 2012."

A spokesman for the Department of Communities and Local Government said: "Ministers are currently examining the requests and any further evidence from interested parties. A decision will be made in due course."

Police commander fields your questions

POLICE chief Gideon Springer will field questions at a crime roadshow event at Fulham Palace this month.

The borough commander will answer to residents during the event, which takes place at the palace's Great Hall in Bishops Avenue.

The roadshow is one of three community

engagement events to be held across the borough in November. It follows the announcement that Fulham police station is soon to be downgraded, although a front counter service will be retained.

The roadshow is on Tuesday, November 24 from 7pm. Doors open at 6.30pm.

Fly-tippers feeling the heat

A COUNCIL crackdown on fly-tippers has led to a spike in prosecutions this year, new figures reveal.

There have already been six prosecutions for rubbish dumping in 2015, compared to just five over the previous three years combined.

Several areas in Hammersmith and Fulham have been identified as fly-tipping hotspots and council chiefs have declared war on the dumpers.

But opposition leaders have accused the council of "dropping the ball" and called for greater urgency in tackling fly-tipping issues.

Hammersmith and Fulham council's Labour leadership says progress is now being made in the campaign to clean up the borough's streets, with more residents using a mobile phone app to report fly-tipping incidents.

The council's 'Report It' app has been used to flag up more than 1,100 cases this year.

Councillor Wesley Harcourt, the council's cabinet member for environment, said the app, which allows users to report dumped rubbish and other environmental issues instantly, had been a key factor in the growing number of prosecutions.

"We are committed to stamping out the dumping of rubbish in Hammersmith and Fulham and these figures show we are punishing more of the culprits," he said.

"There is still much to do and any information from residents will help us catch as many fly-tippers and litterers as possible."

Use of the 'Report It' app has grown year on year and almost 4,000 residents are now registered to use it.

Last year, it was used to report a total of 1,171 incidents and a similar number have already been reported in 2015.

The six fly-tipping prosecutions so far this year compare with two in 2014, two in 2013

and only one in 2012.

Cllr Harcourt added: "The more residents who use 'Report It', Twitter and other methods to report dumped waste, the more likely it is we can catch those responsible and, where appropriate, prosecute them."

"We are determined to make our streets as clean as possible."

However, opposition leaders called on the council to act more quickly when dumped rubbish appears.

Councillor Greg Smith, Leader of the council's Conservative group, said: "It is clear that Hammersmith and Fulham's Labour council have dropped the ball on street cleaning and fly-tips."

"Many residents have raised this with me and the extent of the problem is self-evident as you walk around the borough."

"The council needs to be much quicker at clearing fly-tips away as soon as they appear, otherwise even more fly-tipping will be attracted."

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Staying power puts homeowners top of the extension table

BY JACK DIXON

jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

RECORD numbers of Hammersmith homeowners are choosing to extend their properties, with millions of pounds added to house values across the borough in the first half of this year alone.

New research reveals that Hammersmith and Fulham has become England's number one hotspot for home improvements, as council planners face an unprecedented number of applications for planning permission.

An analysis of London's prime property market by estate agents Savills found a huge number of completed extensions over the first six months of the year. As many as one in 16 of all owner-occupied properties in the borough – around six per cent – were extended between January and June.

The figure, according to Savills' research, is more than one and a half times higher than any other local authority area in the country.

A total of 1,634 planning applications were submitted in Hammersmith and Fulham, with completed developments adding a combined £150 million to the value of homes in the borough.

Savills crunched numbers from the Department of Communities and Local Government that indicated 220,000 people in England extended their home in the year to June, adding an estimated £6.6 billion to the value of their homes. Analysts at Savills suggested the stamp duty reform introduced in December last year had made moving less desirable and that homeowners were looking to improve their properties instead.

It follows a report by upmarket property firm Knight Frank suggesting Hammersmith is London's fastest growing 'million-pound neighbourhood', with properties selling for seven-figure sums in increasing numbers.

Lucian Cook, head of residential research at Savills, said: "The cost of taking the next step up the housing ladder and the difficulties in acquiring the mortgage finance to do so ap-

pear to have encouraged a significant proportion of owner occupiers to extend or alter their existing home. Changes made by the mortgage market review and increased stamp duty for properties over £1 million are both likely catalysts to home improvements, impeding the rate and volume of transactions in the market.

"High value markets have generally been the strongest performers post-credit crunch."

"Extending has therefore been both more financially viable, with owners recouping the money spent on home improvements through house price growth, and more attractive given the relative costs of upsizing."

Figures from online estate agents HouseSimple point to a spike in new property listings across the borough last month, after a "summer slumber" for sellers.

Chief executive Alex Gosling said: "The housing market still has a long road to travel to rebalance supply and demand, but these latest listings figures show that we are finally moving in the right direction."



HELPING HAND: A dedicated husband and wife team have been hard at work collecting donations for Hammersmith and Fulham's poppy appeal in the run-up to this weekend's commemorations. Mary Walker and Tom Phillips (pictured with volunteer fundraisers) have been selling poppies in Hammersmith and Shepherd's Bush ahead of Remembrance Sunday (November 8). The couple are hoping to go one better than last year, when more than £40,000 was raised towards the appeal, and are encouraging volunteers to help distribute poppies, collect donations and count the takings. Mrs Walker, 68, said: "These people joined the services and go out on our behalf to protect us. I feel we should give them every support."

Pedestrian injured after van collision

A PEDESTRIAN was rushed to hospital in a critical condition last week after being hit by a van in Hammersmith Broadway.

The collision happened at

around 5pm last Monday (October 26) near to Hammersmith underground station.

Emergency services were called to the scene and the

man was transferred to hospital by air ambulance.

Road closures remained in place at the Hammersmith gyratory while police officers investigated the incident.

Cultural centre draws on artists' generosity

A STRING of acclaimed artists have donated their work to help raise funds towards the restoration of Hammersmith's Irish Cultural Centre.

Riverdance star Michael Flatley's offer to donate proceeds from the sale of one of his paintings encouraged volunteers at the centre to appeal to other artists, sparking a fundraising drive.

Well-known Irish artists including James Brohan, Brian Ballard, Amanda Shirlow and Bernadette Keating have all agreed to help.

Proceeds will be put towards a revamp of the building, in Blacks Road, which volunteers intend to reopen to the public next year.

General manager Collette Macklin said the new-look centre would include a bar and café, providing a "friendly and safe environment for everyone to use".

She said she was now keen to attract the support of Irish businesses based in London.

"Many major Irish businesses have significant operations in the UK and we are sure that many of their customers and employees visit the centre," she said. "Irish art and culture is good for business and we hope that businesses will now approach us with sponsorship offers."



KEY SUPPORT: From sculptor Jonathan O'Dea.

Mr Flatley, who creates his artwork by dancing onto a canvas, was the first to donate to the cause. His painting is expected to sell for around £30,000 at auction.

Acclaimed sculptor Jonathan O'Dea is also contributing to the appeal by creating an artwork from hundreds of old keys left over from the former centre. A collection of the donated

artwork is being exhibited at Barbara Stanley's gallery in Connaught Street, near Marble Arch.

Jim O'Hara, chairman of the Irish Cultural Centre, said: "Given the calibre of the artists we had received donations from and the actual value of the paintings themselves, it was very important that we could identify a very high-quality venue to display the paintings and sell them from."

"Barbara has a beautiful gallery in central London, which specialises in contemporary Irish art. Having heard of our plans Barbara offered to display each painting on a rolling basis at her gallery alongside her own exhibitions, with all of the proceeds from the donated paintings going to the Irish Cultural Centre."

Volunteers at the centre hope to raise a total of £643,000 to fit out the interior of the building, which they will move back into in April. They hope to reopen to the public in September.

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50 rescued from tower block blaze

Firefighters rescued 50 people from flats in a North Kensington tower block on Saturday when a blaze broke out on the third floor. Kensington and Chelsea borough councillor **Emma Dent Coad** was among those first on the scene. Here is her eye-witness report

FIRE broke out in a third floor flat in Adair Tower in North Kensington at around 9am on Saturday morning, blazing through one flat and sending thick acrid smoke throughout the 13 floors above.

Fire engines were despatched from Kensington, Paddington, Islington, Camden and Ruislip to deal with the blaze, which took 50 firefighters to bring under control.

The first appliance was there within three minutes and four more arrived within six minutes, their prompt action minimising what could have been a major disaster.

As the blaze came under control, firefighters led terrified residents out of their flats; three had to be rescued by ladders from the tower block's windows.

Paramedics and ambulances attended, monitoring residents who had suffered smoke inhalation and minor injuries and ferrying the worst affected and some older vulnerable people to hospital, while local police attended and kept the area secure and isolated.

Some residents exited by the stairs quickly, but some were trapped in their flats for up to half an hour. One frightened man said he had stopped up his front door with towels to keep out the smoke, and stayed on his balcony, but when firefighters reached him he had to be persuaded to leave and venture down the stairs as he could not see two feet in front of him.

The building is home to some very old and very young residents, who also had to walk or be carried down several flights of stairs in thick smoke and were very afraid.

One elderly woman with dementia, being looked after by her family, seemed to be in a state of shock.

There were no fatalities or serious injuries, thanks to the rapid work of firefighters and police, but 15 were taken to hospital suffering smoke inhalation, shock, and minor injuries. Some were still in their nightwear, and were in need of medication left behind in the rush to evacuate.

Father Philip of the neighbouring Church of Our Lady of Holy Souls opened his doors to the evacuees, and volunteers offered tea and biscuits to the shell-shocked and confused residents.

Local councillor Pat Mason was nearby and quickly at-

tended the scene to help and advise the emergency services. I joined him to comfort frightened residents and led them to the church hall.

The chief executive of the tenant management organisation that manages the council flats rushed to the scene to organise help and reassure residents, and contacted the council to help secure the building and re-house anyone unable to return to their home.

Fire safety officers will be investigating the scene along with police, who have established a crime scene while they work out how the fire started and spread. A full report will be expected, and acted upon, in due course.

Golborne Councillor Mason, who was first on the scene, said: "I saw thick smoke billowing from Adair Tower and firefighters rescuing residents from third floor windows on a turntable ladder.

"I assisted ambulance, police and fire staff to set up an emergency medical base on the street to treat smoke inhalation victims. Being Saturday and 9am, no tenant management or council staff were on duty, so I acted as liaison between all the services until they arrived.

"I later entered the building with tenant management staff and saw that the whole third floor was burned out.

"It was only due to the fast and professional actions of the fire brigade that no one died. We all need to know why this fire started and take steps to ensure there is no repeat at Adair or in any other tower block."

Speaking as a fellow councillor, my comment is that this was everyone's worst nightmare, but thankfully it was brought under control quickly. Residents were very frightened indeed, young and old, and sadly some will not be able to return to their homes and will have to be re-housed by the council, at least until their homes are restored.

This will be a very difficult time for them but I'm sure the neighbourliness of Golborne will rise to the occasion and give them all the help they need.

Adair Tower's nearby twin Hazelwood Tower suffered fires in 1987 and 2002, both of which sadly ended in a fatality. We must ensure that lessons learnt then are added to the upcoming investigation report.

Emma Dent Coad



■ HIGH DRAMA: The scene on Saturday morning after fire broke out in a flat in Adair Tower in North Kensington. Police threw a security cordon round the building as fire crews evacuated residents. Some needed hospital treatment and some were temporarily accommodated at nearby church premises, pictured below.

Pictures: Emma Dent Coad



Council gets tough with rule flouters

THE Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's planning enforcement team is one of the most active in the country, according to figures recently released by the Department of Communities and Local Government.

The statistics for the year June 2014 to June 2015 show that the council's planning enforcement team issued and served 23 temporary stop notices, more than any other local authority in the UK and representing nine per cent of all such stop notices that were served in the UK last year.

Temporary stop notices allow planning authorities to act quickly to address breaches of planning control, such as unauthorised activities. The notices may prohibit a range of activities, including those that take place intermittently or seasonally.

Since the start of July 2015 Kensington and Chelsea council has served a further eight temporary stop notices. Usually the planning enforcement team serves a temporary stop notice because developers have failed to adhere to construction traffic management plans.

These must be followed when planning permission is granted for basement development.

Councillor Timothy Coleridge, cabinet member for planning policy, said: "I hope developers are getting the message but if not we will continue to be the most prolific user of temporary stop notices in the country for the foreseeable future!"

Chip chip hooray

THE Mayfair Chippy in London has been named as one of the UK's top three fledgling fish and chip shops as part of the 2016 National Fish and Chip Awards.

Whittled down from a top 10 semi-finalist shortlist, The Mayfair Chippy, in Audley Street, will now 'fry' for glory against fellow fish and chip contenders – Catch in East Loos, Cornwall and Chuckles Chippy in Poole, Dorset – in the race to bag the Best Newcomer Award. To secure a place as a finalist, the newcomers have been appraised across a wide variety of judging criteria, including the policies they have in place regarding the responsible sourcing of raw ingredients, shop appearance, decor and facilities, staff training programmes, and marketing and promotional activity. They also received mystery shopping judging assessments by industry experts to ascertain the quality of the fish and chips on offer and the levels of customer service provided by staff.

During November the finalists will be subjected to further judging. The overall winner will be announced at the awards ceremony in London in January.



Oh what a Knight!

THE second annual West End Wilma Awards took place on Friday, October 30, at The Hippodrome Casino in central London. Singer Beverley Knight won the Best Vocal Performance category – sponsored by the London Weekly News – at the awards. Beverley, who has enthralled audiences in the musical *Memphis*, is pictured left with London Weekly News theatre critic Nicky Sweetland after pipping Killian Donnelly and Gina Beck to the prestigious award. Beverley began a new role as Grizabella in *Cats* at the London Palladium last week. Nicky is also pictured right with the awards' inspiration, West End Wilma.

Pictures: Ollie Boito Photography

REPORT AND MORE PICTURES NEXT WEEK



Angels help get firms airborne

SEVEN new businesses are up and running in London thanks to help from Kensington-based Wild Blue, a network of business angels which is itself a start-up company.

The growing new businesses include Plentific, which provides online support for property transactions; HomeTouch, an e-market place for hiring carers started by a doctor trained at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital; Loyalzoo, an app for keeping your various loyalty points in one place and Simplycook, which provides its customers with restaurant-quality recipes and ingredients.

The others are Seenit, a crowdsourced video content website; Great British Chefs, an already popular website offering recipe inspiration, expert cooking guides and the latest chef and restaurant news and Lexoo, an online marketplace for legal advice.

Based in Kensington and Chelsea, Wild Blue is a growing cohort of local business angels looking to invest in entrepreneurs close to home. Now with 36 members, who have so far invested £400,000, the venture is not only helping bring Kensington and Chelsea companies to life, it will itself soon have a physical presence in the borough.

Partnering with property company The Collective, and with support from the borough council, Wild Blue is co-developing a shared working space at 205, Holland Park Avenue. The new space will be a home for local investors, entrepreneurs and businesses who want to operate in Kensington and Chelsea.

"I am very pleased that the support we have been able to give to Wild Blue is enabling these exciting developments," said councillor Gerard Hargreaves, the Royal Borough's cabinet member for the Voluntary Sector. "I'd urge anyone in the borough who is interested in getting involved with the business angels network, to get in touch with Wild Blue."

Wild Blue was founded by David Barrie, an entrepreneur born and brought up in Kensington and Chelsea. He runs the enterprise with Deepali Nangia, a specialist business adviser and mentor, who lives in South Kensington. The venture is supported by the council's Innovative Projects Fund.

New approach to beat Alzheimer's

A LANDMARK study testing whether two special drugs can prevent the onset of symptoms in patients at high risk of developing Alzheimer's is under way at University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

The Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer Network Trials Unit is an international collaboration working with 200 people who are at high risk of developing early onset Alzheimer's disease. These patients have a 50 per cent chance of carrying a rare genetic mutation which would see them develop dementia early in life, around their 30s or 40s.

The UK arm of the study is being led by Dr Cath Mummery, consultant neurologist at UCLH's National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery and head of clinical trials at Queen Square's Dementia Research Centre.

"These patients know that they may get Alzheimer's disease because they may have a mutation that causes it, but they don't have symptoms," said Dr Mummery. "So we're trying to prevent the onset of the disease, which is very different from studies so far that have trialled treatments in those already suffering from dementia."

'Alco-cop tax' could make pubs pay bill for night-time policing

BY GEOFF BAKER

geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

WEST End clubs and pubs are facing new survival pressures with calls for them to pay for the police themselves following a report that blames 80 per cent of weekend arrests on boozing.

Supermarkets and off-licences could also be hit by the "alco-cop tax", which is backed by an overwhelming majority of police officers.

But chiefs of London's night-time industry warn that extra costs would cause "immense loss" to the capital.

The suggestion of new fees to be levied on every establishment that sells alcohol comes in a report that damns drinking as the No 1 cause of most of the trouble and crime in the capital.

The report, based on a survey of 5,000 emergency service workers, adds to calls for an end to 24-hour drinking after three-quarters of police and half of ambulance staff surveyed said they had been injured while dealing with drink-related incidents.

In a further threat to London's already beleaguered night-time industries, the report by the Institute for Alcohol Studies reveals that clubs could come under the cosh to fund the extra police work caused by late-night drinking.

"The survey showed that 89 per cent of police favour levies on licensed premises to fund police activity," said the IAS.

"Moreover, they were insistent that this policy should not be focused solely on pubs and clubs but that supermarkets and off-licences should be targeted as well. In addition, 76 per cent of ambulance staff believe that alcohol users should have to pay for call-outs resulting from their own drunkenness."

The report says the survey showed that 80 per cent of weekend arrests are

alcohol-related, 50 per cent of violent crime is committed while under the influence and 75 per cent of police and 53 per cent of ambulance staff have already been injured while dealing with drunks.

"Alcohol has created a culture of fear in the members of emergency services who are out on the streets; 78 per cent of police officers and 65 per cent of ambulance staff feel at risk to drunken assaults," said the IAS.

The Institute's Director Katherine Brown added: "Our report shows how alcohol takes up a disproportionate share of emergency service time. Many of these incidents are preventable, and alcohol therefore creates unnecessary problems for front line staff, increasing their workload and preventing them from dealing with other important issues. Police officers we spoke to would far rather be dealing with burglaries than Friday night drunks."

"We call on the Government to better support our emergency services and implement policies to ease this burden, such as minimum unit pricing for alcohol. Local Authorities could also do more by using their licensing powers more proactively, such as trying to bring forward extremely late closing times where needed."

The report came in the same week as the top Kensington nightclub Boujis was ordered to shut its doors after a mass punch-up between revellers. Prince Harry's favourite club was told to shut for two weekends and it faces a fight to keep its licence after the incident caused a police application to suspend its licence.

Kensington and Chelsea Council Licensing Committee has suspended the club's licence until November 9. It can then reopen but

has been ordered to stop selling alcohol at 2.0 am, rather than 3.0 am, until a full hearing on the club licence to be held this month. The club must also ban anyone under 21.

But as fears grow that paying for policing and earlier-closing could put the city's already-struggling small clubs under the cosh, the Night Time Industries Association [NTIA] has defended the London club scene and has warned that without a thriving nightlife, which employs tens of thousands and earns a large chunk of the £66 Billion that the industry nationally contributes to the economy, the capital could suffer "the Detroit effect" and become a wasteland for going out.

A NTIA spokesman said extra costs, such as an "alco-cop tax", could make it hard for smaller clubs to survive.

"One of the biggest casualties in the night time industry in recent years has been the massive decline of smaller premises which have been affected by market forces. More costs could make it difficult for more of these smaller clubs to survive," he said.

Alan Miller, chairman of the NTIA added: "A further loss to London if limits are placed on night time activity would be immense."

He added: "It is important to make the point that currently very few venues operate 24 hours. In fact in London there are only three key ones that come to mind that regularly use their late license. For the most part clubs and venues close between 1.0 and 3.0 am."

"One of the major complaints currently is that when people visit us from abroad

■ **GOOD NIGHT: Boris Johnson backs the night-time economy.**



Maradona signs for team united in helping youth attain positive goals



BY THE EDITOR, PHILIP EVANS

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FOOTBALL legend Diego Maradona has signed for Kensington-based Football For Unity by officially agreeing to be president of the charity in Latin America.

Football For Unity, recently launched at a high-profile event at the House of Commons, is part of the Unity of Faiths organisation, set up by Kensington social psychologist Dr Shamender Talwar and former Mayfair antiques dealer Anna Prior, which has won worldwide acclaim for its initiatives in eliminating radicalism.

The relationship between Maradona and Football For Unity (FFU) blossomed after he sent a video link message of support during the House of Commons event expressing his excitement at the prospect of working with children via FFU. On Monday last week, founders and trustees of FFU with their legal team, Mr Sarosh Zaiwalla and Mr Lawrence Jacobson of Zaiwalla & Co. LLP, gathered to welcome Maradona and his legal team led by Mr Matias Morla at London's Intercontinental hotel during a press conference.

Maradona commented: "I am very pleased to be part of this beautiful project with Football for Unity, helping the children and creating opportunities for their future."

The World Cup winning footballer has served as a manager and coach at a number of clubs as well as the national team of Argentina. Many experts, football critics, former players, current players and football fans regard him as the greatest player of all time.

Marcus Faraji, trustee and co-founder of FFU and Mariano Menéndez, President of Forbes LATAM, said: "Football For Unity are extremely excited and pleased to have Maradona on board as he is a truly world class representative of football."

The FFU projects will be set up worldwide, scaling up from successful existing initiatives in the UK and Spain, to provide structured games, training, facilities and health awareness education. This will be targeted to groups of young people from diverse local communities who will benefit from improved integration through sport. Alongside this, sessions on nutrition, behaviour, conflict resolution and equality will engage youngsters and teach them to lead better lifestyles.

FFU has attracted wide support from the grassroots football community across London and been praised by world leaders, including President Obama and the Pope.

Dr Shamender Talwar and Anna Prior, co-founders of FFU, said: "We are so proud to say that the world's greatest-ever footballer has signed for us, a British charity helping and supporting many youths around Britain and worldwide through the beautiful game of football."



■ **VISIONARY:** Footballing legend Maradona proudly displays the FFU shirt with Marcus Faraji (chief executive of Digital Empire, and co-founder/trustee of Football for Unity) Pictures: Jack Dixon



■ **SPOT ON:** Icon Maradona backs the Football For Unity initiative above, watched by the project's founders, Dr Shamender Talwar, right, and Anna Prior. Bottom: the Argentinian star conducts an interview with a television news channel after he signed up to support FFU. Pictures: Jack Dixon



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LWN

KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA NEWS

Crossrail comes to the crunch

BY GEOFF BAKER

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THE Crossrail row between Chelsea residents and their local councillors has got even crosser – with national treasure Felicity Kendal and fellow anti-rail residents accusing Kensington and Chelsea Royal Borough Council of backing “a vanity project” and councillors saying the residents are making up “scare stories”.

The bitter feud between the electors and the elected continued this week as Transport for London reacted to the furious opposition from King’s Road campaigners with a surprise change of plan.

Instead of wanting to build a Crossrail 2 station on the fire station site, TfL now says the new “best site” is further east on King’s Road, on the corner of Sydney Street. But the No Crossrail In Chelsea campaigners – who number more than 4,000 – are opposing the new switch too, saying that “nobody wants it” and claiming that it makes the highly-controversial scheme “even worse” for residents and business owners.

“If a Crossrail station is built in Chelsea it will destroy the place that we all love. Dovehouse Green or Sydney Street makes absolutely no difference,” said Felicity Kendal, who is patron of the No Crossrail In Chelsea lobby.

“In fact, moving it closer to Sloane Square and into the heart of the Chelsea village makes the prospect even worse than before. Our campaign has demonstrated that there is huge local opposition to Crossrail in Chelsea. More than 4,000 residents, small business owners, visitors, shoppers and celebrities have joined us.

“Why waste more than £1 billion when we are already in close proximity to both Sloane Square and South Kensington stations, and especially when the money could be better spent elsewhere, where it is really needed?”

Kensington and Chelsea councillors are set to face their angry opponents tonight [Tuesday November 3rd] at a public meeting at Chelsea Old Town Hall to discuss the plans for Crossrail Chelsea with Conservative councillors who are backing the proposal and TfL’s chief Michele Dix.

Peace is not expected to break



out in the light of volleys from both sides in recent weeks – with campaigners accusing the council of ignoring local feeling and having secret plans for a “1,000 homes bonanza” development in the area of King’s Road and the council saying they have no plans for 1,000 homes and accusing the campaigners of spreading “wild claims”.

Chris Lenon, chair of the campaign, said the councillors were not listening to the residents who elected them.

“We are incredibly disappointed that RBKC continue to blindly support this scheme. It is supposed to be the borough’s council, not the council’s borough,” he said.

“TfL and the council must lis-



■ **OPPONENTS:** Felicity Kendal with campaigners fighting Crossrail proposals.

ten to local people, cancel these plans and scrap their £1.2 billion vanity project.

“Following a Freedom of Information request, TfL revealed to us that the Crossrail Chelsea plan ‘would unlock one thousand new homes in the vicinity’. We will be asking the council at the meeting where are these thousand new homes going to be built?”

“If the plans are for them to go up, like a Shard, then people will get very annoyed. Or do they have plans to redevelop existing social housing? Like the Sutton Estate?”

“We believe that these thousand homes won’t be for social housing, we think they will be high-end, buy-to-leave for foreign investors.”

But the council has hit back, saying “we have no plans for a ‘1,000 home bonanza’”.

It added: “Crossrail 2 is a nationally important infrastructure project and TfL has quite rightly modelled its potential economic impact. It is likely this modelling that has produced the figure. In case the No campaigners haven’t heard, many Londoners are severely affected by a chronic housing shortage and the council is trying to lead the way in bringing forward plans for new homes. So if there are opportunities for high quality new homes in Chelsea, we welcome that.”

The council’s transport chief, Councillor Tim Coleridge, has also revealed that the council would not have allowed the large Crossrail station that campaigners feared was destined for the previously-favoured fire station site.

“We’ve heard some pretty wild claims about the sort of station Chelsea is likely to get,” said Councillor Coleridge, the borough’s Cabinet Member for Transport.

“We have heard it described as being as large as Westfield and as being so ‘gigantic’ that it ‘will destroy the area forever.’ But TfL has never wanted such a station and as the planning authority we would never have allowed it. The truth is that TfL also wants to preserve the character of



King’s Road. So I am again urging residents not to listen to scare stories but to take part in TfL’s consultation and find out the facts for themselves. The council believes that in principle Crossrail 2 for Chelsea offers some tremendous benefits. Our focus therefore is on making sure that we can get the right station and the right plan for minimising the impact of construction. We believe that TfL’s announcement shows we are making progress.”

The council said TfL now wants to build “a small site” on the King’s Road corner of Sydney Street, between Dovehouse Green and the old Heal’s building.

“This has been chosen as the

best location for a Crossrail 2 station,” said a council spokesman.

“Above ground, TfL’s intention is for the station to be modest in scale and integrated into existing buildings, thereby preserving the character of King’s Road. The entrance would be on Sydney Street although TfL say there is also the potential for a second access point facing onto Dovehouse Green. The switch to Sydney Street, from the previous preferred site at Chelsea Fire Station, follows earlier consultations with local residents and businesses. TfL says it has listened to concerns and today’s new station proposals mean that Chelsea Fire Station will not be affected. It also makes plain that it has no plans to build on or dig up Dovehouse Green.”

But Mr Lenon said: “This last minute change of plan from Transport for London suggests they are in complete disarray. Why alter course now? Why come up with another proposal that still nobody wants and nobody needs? If they claim that the main transport need for Crossrail is for people living in West Chelsea, why move the station further east?”

“Let’s be absolutely clear. Our campaign is not opposed to Crossrail 2, we just don’t want or need a station in Chelsea. The plans have no transport case and no business case. We have been absolutely clear from the beginning. We are determined to save our village and will oppose any station in Chelsea.”

“The plans for a mega railway station on Sydney Street will still result in years worth of disruption, will still put up business rates forcing out independent businesses and will still put hundreds of listed buildings at risk.

“This Crossrail 2 station in Chelsea will still be the only station on the route not linked up to another line. It makes absolutely no sense.”

But the council argues Crossrail Chelsea makes a great deal of sense, saying: “A Crossrail 2 station at King’s Road would: improve residents’ journeys with up to 30 Crossrail 2 trains per hour to destinations including Hertfordshire and Surrey, provide direct links from King’s Road to 50 rail and Underground stations, reduce the time taken to travel, for example, between King’s Road and Canary Wharf by approximately 20 minutes, and would bring around 5,000 more residents of Chelsea within a ten-minute walk of an Underground or rail station.

“It would also provide local people with access to more jobs within a 45-minute journey, support local businesses and economic growth by enabling more people to get to King’s Road Chelsea within a 45-minute journey and help reduce demand at nearby District line stations.”



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UNDER THE WESTWAY

Giving children confidence to succeed

Angela McConville, Chief Executive of Westway Trust, looks at the tremendous achievements of Supplementary Schools, which enable many more children in the local borough to thrive...

LAST week more than 270 people gathered at Kensington Aldridge Academy to celebrate the Annual Supplementary Schools Awards, which this year marked the 20th anniversary of the local partnership.

For the past two decades, Westway Trust has been privileged to co-ordinate the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's Supplementary Schools partnership. It is one of the ways in which Westway Trust, as custodian of the 23 acres under the flyover, benefits the community.

Supplementary Schools exist to help young people to increase their understanding, improve their grades and most importantly to build their confidence in learning. They offer community language teaching and provide formal revision or booster lessons in English, Maths and Science, as well as a range of other subjects not always taught in mainstream school and are, for the most part, run by volunteers.

Supplementary School lessons take place after 'normal'

school hours and at the weekend.

Through Westway Learning, we support 14 Supplementary Schools, which offer extra tuition for pupils aged between 5-19 years.

In the last 20 years, more than 5,000 young people have been encouraged and inspired.

Up to 750 young people a week now benefit from these schools, with more than 60,000 learning hours a year.

Westway Trust is responsible for the quality assurance of the education, ensuring that good practice is shared, and organising a rich programme of training for the schools to support their governance, sustainability and growth.

While we at Westway Trust take pride in our role as co-ordinators, the real heroes are the parents who sacrifice much to ensure their children are given the best opportunities, the volunteers who give their time freely to encourage and impart knowledge, and, of course, the children themselves, who give up their free time.

I was sorry not to be able to attend this year's event, given I really enjoyed meeting those involved last year, but the Westway Trust team, who organised the event, have fed back on its success.

Awards were presented to well over a hundred young people from a range of communities, from Georgian to Albanian, and from Eritrean to Moroccan.

Abdullah Ali, Co-ordinator of the Baraka Community Proj-

ect, shared an insight into the tremendous work carried out by Supplementary Schools.

He spoke of the fascinating history of Supplementary Schools. Early immigrant communities felt that they needed to "supplement" the education that their children received in order to enhance their children's achievement in mainstream schools.

The Afro-Caribbean community, concentrated on providing literacy, numeracy and Black History classes to their children in community centres on Saturdays.

Prior to the introduction of Supplementary Schools, local mainstream schools, teachers and leaders did not fully understand the importance and need for additional support. But community centres and churches were different. The Venture Community Centre, for example, where Somali Saturday started and still runs, and churches such as Notting Hill Methodist Church, St Francis of Assisi and St Michael's in Colville Square, went out of their way to host and support Supplementary Schools.

In the early 1990s, Westway Trust, began to support newly-arrived migrants from war-torn areas such as Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan through the establishment of the Refugee and Migrants Forum, and the appointment of a Supplementary Schools Co-ordinator. Since then the project has gone from strength to strength. There is now core funding from RBKC, the John Lyon's Charity and Westway Trust, with additional funding from the Grove Trust.

More recently we have begun to recognise, as young people move through Supplementary Schools into jobs, apprenticeships and universities, they need the development of the soft skills that employers and universities look for, good team working, confidence to speak in public and problem solving skills. Through projects with our partners at the Science Museum, the Natural History Museum and more recently the V&A we have been able to provide this support.

There are many community benefits from Supplementary Schools.

Many of the students have managed to successfully access mainstream education and gone on to achieve academic qualifications in higher education.

Research has proved that knowledge of more than one language improves educational achievement. Supplementary Schools support for mother-tongue home languages supports this, as well as instilling a sense of worth and heritage.

Supplementary Schools also provide wider educational and enrichment opportunities and many have taken on important

advocacy roles for their communities facing challenges.

As Arbër Pllana, a former pupil and now a volunteer at the Albanian School 'Kosova' explained, instilling a sense of self-worth and achievement is one of the most important outcomes.

Arbër, who has carved out a very successful career in adver-

tising, said his time at Kosova had "given me the confidence to wear a suit. It taught us integration through confidence, we were not only able to discover who we were but also learn to say "This is who I am" and be able to share that so that we can become a single community."

We are proud to be part of

such a truly diverse community and of our role in enabling everyone whatever their background or circumstances to make the most of the opportunities available to them. I look forward to Westway Trust enabling many more people to realise their potential through this and other partnerships into the future.

Have your say

on the proposal for the new Silvertown Tunnel

We're giving you an opportunity to have your say on the proposal for a new tunnel at Silvertown, before a planning application is submitted in Spring 2016.

The new tunnel will:

- Reduce queuing at the Blackwall Tunnel by providing a nearby alternative river crossing
- Offer new cross-river bus link opportunities
- Support the creation of new jobs and homes

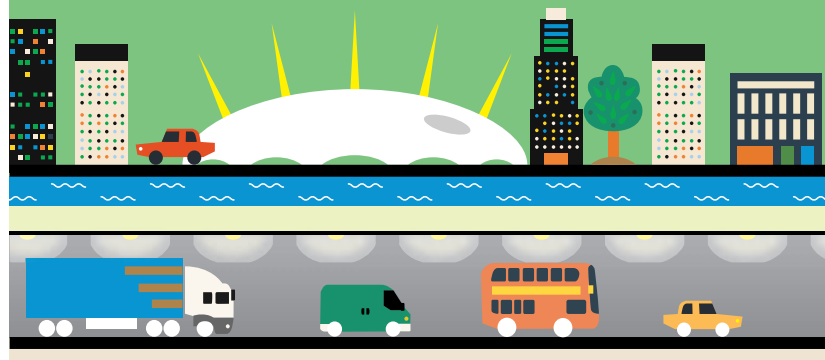
Our scheme includes a proposal to introduce a charge to use the Blackwall and Silvertown Tunnels. This would help manage traffic-flow and fund the new tunnel.

To find out more please visit tfl.gov.uk/silvertown-tunnel

The consultation ends 29 November 2015



■ **CONFIDENCE BOOST:** Arbër Pllana said that attending a supplementary school had given him a sense of self-worth and achievement.





■ **SPORTING CHANCE:** Budding young sports stars from across the borough went head to head in Hammersmith and Fulham's first ever games festival last month. More than 250 primary school pupils took to the field at the Barn Elms sports centre in Hammersmith, as part of a project to encourage youngsters to get stuck into sport. Beach volleyball, 'kwik' cricket and six-a-side football were among the games on offer at the event, which was organised by community sports leaders from the London Oratory School in Fulham. Pupils from the Larmenier Sacred Heart and St John XXIII primary schools were crowned joint winners after the day's activities. Stephen Hughes, PE teacher at the London Oratory, said it had been "truly spectacular" and "wonderful to watch". Organisers from the school were supported in the running of the event by representatives from the London Sports Trust and the Fulham Football Club Foundation. Pictured above is the London Oratory School team.

Poverty worse in London than rest of UK, says latest research

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

MORE than a quarter of Londoners are living in poverty when their housing costs are taken into account, new research claims.

The annual assessment, conducted by London's Poverty Profile, found that 27 per cent of Londoners are in poverty, compared to 20 per cent for the UK as a whole.

The report by New Policy Institute, funded by independent charity Trust for London, looks at the role of income, inequality, housing, work, and education in the capital. It shows how things have changed within London over time, and compares this with the rest of the country.

The data suggests that the majority of people living in poverty in London are in a working family. As employment has increased so too has the number of people in a working family in poverty, with the study outlining a 70 per cent increase in the last decade.

The figure has risen from 700,000 to 1.2 million since 2005.

This is the fifth London's Poverty Profile and it claims that there are 860,000 more people in poverty in private rented housing rather than social or owner-occupied homes.

According to the study, almost

700,000 jobs in London (18 per cent) pay below the London Living Wage, having increased for five consecutive years, particularly among men working full-time.

However, the number of unemployed adults is at its lowest level since 2008, at just over 300,000.

The unemployment ratio in Inner London has reportedly halved over the past 20 years reaching 5.6 per cent, slightly higher than the rest of England at 4.8 per cent.

Brent was found to be one of the highest boroughs in London for residents claiming tax credits, with 31 per cent of children living in families receiving tax credits and nearly one in three residents being paid below the London living wage.

The unemployment rate in Ealing is significantly higher than the London average at 8.2 per cent compared to 6.4 per cent.

Hammersmith and Fulham is one of the top performing boroughs taking into account all indicators, with 72 per cent of non-free school meal pupils achieving 5 A* to C GCSE grades.

Harrow had a higher rate of low paid jobs than any other London borough, with 37 per cent of jobs earning below the London Living Wage but was found to have the highest level of religious diversity.

Renting in Hillingdon is in line with

the average for outer London, with average rent accounting for 57 per cent of lower quartile monthly earnings, lower than the neighbouring boroughs of Harrow, Ealing and Hounslow.

Renting in Hounslow is more unaffordable than the average outer London borough, with average rent accounting for 62 per cent of lower quartile monthly gross earnings.

The borough of Kensington and Chelsea unsurprisingly saw one of the lowest unemployment rates in the capital at 4.7 per cent with renting being found to be the most unaffordable in the capital.

Westminster was found to be the second most expensive borough to rent in, with on average a two-bedroom property costing £2,253 a month.

The report by New Policy Institute, funded by independent charity Trust for London, looks at the role of income, inequality, housing, work, and education in the capital. It shows how things have changed within London over time, and compares this with the rest of the country.

Report author, Hannah Aldridge from New Policy Institute, said: "When people talk about 'generation rent' they normally think of young working adults unable to save a deposit. But the 260,000 children growing up in private rented poverty are at the sharp end of London's housing crisis – living in ex-

pensive, often low quality homes, without long-term security.

"So-called affordable starter homes at £450,000 won't solve this problem – London needs investment in more housing suitable for a range of families and incomes, and it needs greater powers to ensure private accommodation is of a good standard."

Mubin Haq, Director of Policy and Grants at Trust for London, said: "A record number of Londoners are in work, yet this has had little impact on the numbers living in poverty in the capital. Over two million are on a low income in London, with an increasing number in working families. On too many occasions work doesn't pay enough, leaving people living in precarious situations."

"Whilst the national living wage is welcome, it falls well short of what is needed to live on and the proposed 2020 rate is already below the London Living Wage of £9.15 per hour. Action is also needed on costs, particularly in relation to housing. The numbers of affordable homes being built is a fraction of what is needed. There is no shortage of solutions to these problems. We can tackle them if there is the political will and drive to ensure London is a city for all and not just the wealthiest. With the Mayoral Election next year, there is a great opportunity to make London fairer."

Man held over sex assaults

A MAN has been arrested in connection with eight sexual assaults within three weeks in south London.

The 34-year-old man from Lambeth was arrested last Thursday and taken into custody at a south London police station.

Police had appealed for information over a series of attacks, including one on a 26-year-old woman who was sexually assaulted on her doorstep.

Officers first arrested another man on Monday, but launched an appeal after the assaults continued. The attacks in Clapham and Brixton Hill areas started at 11.30pm on October 9 and were followed by a second two hours later. A third assault occurred on October 22, prompting police to arrest a man on October 26, but while he was in custody three more incidents took place that evening.

On Thursday, officers appealed for witnesses, which led to the recent arrest. During the first incident, a 23-year-old woman was grabbed and sexually assaulted on Clitheroe Road, Clapham. She managed to raise the alarm and the suspect ran off.

Two hours later, a 30-year-old woman was grabbed in Deauville Court when a man approached her and tried to talk to her. She asked him to leave her alone but he assaulted her before walking away.

On October 22, a man put his hand up the dress of a 32-year-old woman walking along Trent Road.

Four days later a further three incidents occurred, police said.

About an hour before the woman was assaulted on her doorstep, a 35-year-old was grabbed from behind on Arodene Road as she walked home. An hour later a man exposed himself to a 28-year-old woman on Sandmere Road as she entered her house.

Two more incidents were reported to police last Wednesday, when at 7.20pm a 28-year-old woman was grabbed on Southwell Road. Hours later a 31-year-old woman was pushed into a nearby block of flats along Sudbourne Road and sexually assaulted before the suspect ran away.

Superintendent Rob Applegarth told the BBC: "We are aware of eight assaults which we are linking at this early stage. We have increased police patrols in Clapham and Brixton Hill and urge women to think of their personal safety."

The man arrested on 26 October has been bailed until a date in November.

Hamlet hits out

ACTOR Benedict Cumberbatch has shown his growing frustration over the migration crisis during a speech after his *Hamlet* performance in London – reportedly saying "fxxx the politicians".

The *Sherlock* star has been giving nightly speeches after his curtain call at the Barbican and asking for donations to help Syrian refugees. So far, audience contributions have raised more than £150,000 for Save the Children.

Cumberbatch has been particularly critical of the British government's decision to accept only 20,000 refugees over five years.

Several members of the audience on Tuesday said they supported Cumberbatch's frustration with politicians, which led him to use the swear word.

Halloween hooligans fight police

BY GEOFF BAKER

geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

ILLEGAL ravers brought Halloween shame to London when hundreds of hooligans throwing bottles, chairs and a petrol bomb fought riot police on Saturday.

Officers were attacked after frightened residents called them to close the Lambeth rave, which turned ugly and was described by a BBC reporter as “collective madness and collective badness” – and more threatening than being in Syria.

Four officers were treated for injuries at the scene and a number of ravers were arrested. A Met spokesman said: “As well as attacking police the group also caused criminal damage to private vehicles and property in the area.”

BBC reporter John Sweeney was woken in the early hours of the morning by the sound of the crowds outside his home.

He said: “Many of the people were wearing Halloween and Day of the Dead costumes. It was mad. I’ve just been going around with Syrian refugees and I never felt under threat.”

He said most of those involved appeared to be in their late teens or early 20s and did not seem to be local.

“It was about 3am and the police were outnumbered,” said Mr Sweeney.

“There was a kind of rain of bricks, poles and spiky bits of wood being thrown at them. The police were going forward and being beaten back. There was a fire in the street, being fuelled by wood from my neighbour’s fence.

“These people, for no reason, were deliberately seeking to hurt people who happened to be wearing a uniform, defending other people’s property. This was collective madness and collective badness.”

Crowds first gathered on Black Prince Road at Albert Embankment, across the river from Westminster, before dispersing down Lambeth Road onto Lambeth High Street and nearby Whitgift Street. They charged at police, set fire to bins and chanted “scum” and “pigs”.

Southwark Police tweeted a picture of broken chairs and other debris, writing: “Tired and bruised having had all of this, and more, thrown at us. Yes, that includes the propane tanks.”

The event – called Scumoween: A Nightmare on Scum Street – had been advertised on Facebook to take place in Whitgift Street, starting on Saturday night and intended to last until six on Monday morning. Of 13,000 invited guests on the social networking site, about 4,000 said they planned to attend.

On Wednesday, organisers had advised: “Stay peaceful, stay calm. Patience and numbers is in our favour. Do not antagonise the police. At the end of the day we want to leave them remembering our good attitudes, we just came to dance.”

Some of the revellers appeared to have walked down Vauxhall railway tracks to gain access, the Evening Standard reported.

Heavy propane tanks were also used as missiles, according to Southwark Metropolitan Police. The number of arrests has not yet been confirmed.



■ RIOT: Some of the scenes in Lambeth on Saturday night and Sunday morning after lawless Halloween louts attending a rave mounted concerted attacks on police officers who were trying to keep law and order. Four policemen were treated for injuries at the scene and a number of ravers were arrested.



Princess to be at hospitals’ carol concert

PRINCESS Alexandra will be guest of honour at Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals Charity’s Christmas carol concert, held at the prestigious St Luke’s Church, Chelsea on Wednesday, December 9.

The evening will include traditional carols, songs from Imperial College Choir and a reading by former newsreader Martyn Lewis. Also performing on the night will be Royal Brompton Hospital’s very own ‘Singing for Breathing’ group, made up of patients from the hospital with respiratory problems – many of whom have found singing to be a great aid to their recovery. The event will conclude with mince pies and mulled wine in the hospital.

Organisers say that the evening promises to be a heartwarming, festive occasion in the run-up to Christmas, with money from ticket sales helping Royal Brompton Hospital buy vital new equipment for diagnosing and treating children with heart conditions.

The concert takes place from 6.30pm at St Luke’s Church, Sydney Street, Chelsea. Tickets cost £20 for adults, £10 for children and under 5s are free.

To buy tickets, visit the rbhcharity.org/carol-concert or call 020 7351 8866.

Capital call for diesel ban

CALLS have been made for London to ban diesel vehicles from the capital following the Volkswagen emissions scandal.

The Liberal Democrats on the London Assembly said diesels should be banned or face stringent tests to stop the city’s air becoming more polluted.

But a spokesman for the mayor said it would have a “serious economic impact”.

In September, VW admitted installing software to cheat emissions tests in 11 million of its diesel cars worldwide.

Previously the London Assembly environment committee said diesel vehicles accounted for 40 per cent of the capital’s air pollution with Public Health England suggesting 3,000 people die annually as a result of it.

Falling sofa strikes man

A MAN was seriously injured when he was struck by a sofa which fell from a high-rise building.

The man, in his 20s, is thought to have been hit after the sofa fell from a building which houses the W Hotel in Wardour Street on Friday. His condition was initially reported as being critical.

The hotel said it was working with the police and the Health and Safety Executive to find out what happened.

Harry welcomes wounded heroes to London

LONDON laid on a heroes’ welcome for six courageous wounded Afghanistan veterans after they completed a 1,000-mile UK trek for charity.

They had been walking for 72 days since starting the journey in Moray in August.

They had twice been joined by Prince Harry for different sections of the route, and by other wounded personnel.

The challenge was aimed at raising money for the Walking With the Wounded charity, which supports injured members of the armed forces trying to regain their independence through employment.

During the ambitious Walk

of Britain, which was reported in the *London Weekly News* earlier this year, the veterans reach the summit of four peaks – Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike, Snowdon and Pen Y Fan.

They walked along The Mall towards Buckingham Palace for the final leg of the journey on Sunday and were joined by their partners and children.

The veterans were greeted on the forecourt of the palace by Prince Harry, who described the walk as “formidable” and “epic”. Harry has supported the charity since it was formed, taking part in a trek to the North Pole in 2011 and South Pole in 2013.



■ LONDON CALLING: Wounded Afghanistan war veterans head up the Mall on Sunday.

Win tickets to enjoy exhibition celebrating West Africa's heritage

YOU can win a pair of tickets to *West Africa: Word, Symbol, Song* at the British Library by taking part in this *London Weekly News* competition.

West Africa: Word, Symbol, Song is an exhibition of literature and music – from the great African empires of the Middle Ages to the cultural dynamism of West Africa today. Fascinating stories from the region's 17 nations show how West Africans have harnessed the power of words to build societies, drive political movements, sustain religious belief and fight injustice.

Beautiful manuscripts, historic film and sound recordings, books,

photographs, and woven and printed textiles offer a unique insight into a profound and engaging literary culture with centuries-old written heritage existing alongside ancient oral traditions.

Hear the myth of the founding of ancient Mali in recorded performance. See the influence of religion through colourful fabric and a saddlebag Qur'an.

Celebrate writers and artists including Africa's first Nobel prize winner, Wole Soyinka, and internationally acclaimed musician and human rights activist Fela Kuti.

■ The exhibition is open until February 16, 2016.

■ For more information and to book tickets visit the website www.bl.uk

■ For your chance to win a pair of tickets simply send an email with LIBRARY COMPETITION as the subject line, along with your name, age and address to competitions@londonweeklynews.co.uk

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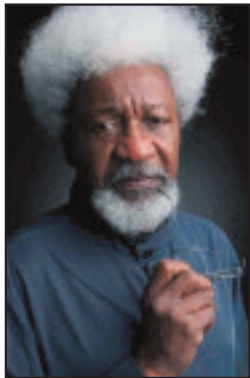
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House price growth slows

NEW evidence reveals a slowdown in London's prime housing market, with prospective buyers falling by nearly a third in September as currency shocks and higher stamp duty charges deter foreign buyers.

Prices of prime central London properties fell 0.3 per cent in October – the steepest monthly decline since the summer of 2010 – according to fresh data from Knight Frank, the estate agency, published by the *Financial Times*.

The numbers of properties exchanged in the prime central London market was nearly 17 per cent lower in the three months to the end of September than the same period a year previously, said the agent, which has measured a 30.2 per cent reduction in numbers of new prospective buyers in September compared with the same month last year.

This has caused Knight Frank to more than halve its forecasts for price growth estimates for 2016, from 4.5 per cent to 2 per cent. The current annual rate of price growth stands at one per cent, the agent said, the lowest level it has seen in the capital since October 2009.

London men cry for help?

NEARLY half of London men feel like crying once a month – more than anywhere else in the country, a study has revealed.

The nationwide poll, conducted by the Movember Foundation, found 49 per cent of men in London feel like crying at least once a month, compared to just 36 per cent of those in the Midlands.

The study highlights the challenge British men feel to be a “real Man”, with 51 per cent of respondents admitting they feel pressured to be successful. As well as its annual moustache growing campaign, Movember 2015 is also encouraging men to look after their mental and physical health.

Sarah Coghlan, director for Movember UK, said the foundation is “challenging masculine stereotypes in the hope it will encourage men to feel comfortable talking”.

“Men and boys face unbelievable pressure to live up to an archaic stereotype of what it means to be a man,” she added.

To sign up and join in raising awareness and funds for Movember 2015 visit the website www.movember.com

Londoners in dark over TB

A NEW survey commissioned by the London Assembly health committee found that one in five Londoners said that they don't know what the symptoms of TB were, when presented with a list.

■ Over half of respondents (56 per cent) thought TB was transmitted through spitting – untrue, yet widely believed.

■ Astonishingly, 17 per cent of survey respondents thought that TB can be transmitted through unprotected sex.

■ More than two in five (43 per cent) agreed that they would be worried if they had to tell their employer they had TB.

Stigmatisation of TB is widespread – for example, only 30 per cent of Londoners said that they would be happy to spend time with someone who has TB. This means many people won't seek diagnosis and treatment, even when they are very unwell, which can increase the chance of wider transmission, unknowingly passing TB onto family members and friends.

Drug resistance can arise when people fail to complete the full course of antibiotics to kill the infection. It is much more complex and expensive to treat, and the number of drug-resistant cases of TB in London is set to rise.

The London Assembly health committee report *Tackling TB in London* calls for better public information, more outreach work and for the Mayor Boris Johnson to

take a leading role in TB control. The report makes a number of recommendations, including:

■ The Mayor should deliver a programme to educate the general public about how TB is spread and its symptoms.

■ The Mayor should examine the feasibility of using Team London volunteers as TB health champions in the community and expand the role of current London TB Ambassadors, like actress Emma Thompson.

■ The Greater London Authority should consider including TB services as part of its pan-London rough sleeping services.

Dr Onkar Sahota AM, chair of the health committee, said: “It is astounding that TB is such a prevalent disease in London and that misconceptions about the disease are so common. We know TB disproportionately affects prisoners, homeless people and people with substance abuse issues, and high quality TB care services are not universally available to all Londoners. The Mayor needs to take more accountability for TB control in London. He is uniquely placed to drive forward measures for TB prevention, as well as better access to treatment. If we don't get a grip on London's TB situation now, the harder and more expensive it will be to tackle in the years to come. With pressures on health budgets, we can't afford to take our eye off the ball.”

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ISSUE 49

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Thursday, November 5th 2015

Harry takes lead in remembrance role

Game on for the people's favourite

BY GEOFF BAKER

geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

NEXT year will be the king-making year for Prince Harry. Although he is the king we shall never have, experts predict that 2016 will see the people's prince firmly established as a global force for good.

Aptly as we mark Remembrance Day, Harry's star will become a supernova because he is set to put into action the words that nations intone at this time, "we will remember them".

Remembrance Day is not just to honour the dead, it is also a time to reflect upon the wounded; the many more left injured and disabled by war. Historically, those many

were much forgotten after the world wars of the last century. Despite the relentless and inspirational work of the Royal British Legion and other good charities, after those wars and others like Vietnam it was not uncommon to see wounded ex-servicemen and women struggling to live on; pennilessly selling matches on street corners, desperate for any work and often falling into despair and disintegration as societies largely forgot their need, and our debt.

But next year Harry will be poised to end the forgetting when he launches the greatest show that the world has ever seen to champion the hopes, strengths and needs of the wounded of wars through The Invictus Games USA.

Harry's Games were launched in London last year to all-round acclaim. Harry con-



WHITE HOUSE DATE: Prince Harry with Barack Obama.

TURN TO PAGE 14

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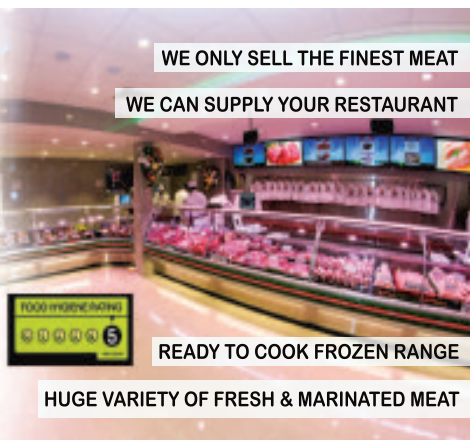
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THE paper serving **ROYAL** London

ROYAL LONDON

Prince fires starting gun on momentous 12 months

Harry woos White House as the US embraces Games

FROM PAGE 13

ceived and is President of the international Paralympic-style multi-sport event, in which wounded, injured or sick Armed Services personnel and their associated veterans take part in various sports.

But Britain is a small island that no longer dominates world opinion and as everyone since The Beatles has known, if you want to break big, you have to break big in America. It's the thinking in the USA that changes things and the Games are now set to cause a global re-think of the way we look after our wounded.

In 2014, the Games had the BBC behind them to broadcast to a domestic audience of up to 10 million viewers.

But for 2016 the Games will be partnered by the mighty Disney corporation, the world's biggest name in broadcasting, who will massively increase the coverage and its effect.

Through their sports arm

ESPN, Disney will beam the Games from Orlando into 100 million homes in the USA alone, and to 200 other countries besides, for five nights.

The Stateside combination of Disney and Harry – hailed in the US as “the breath of fresh heir” by the media that says he is “the most popular royal in America since his mother” – is expected to set a new standard for the thought the world gives for its wounded warriors.

“I had always hoped that last year's Games would be more than just a one-off,” says Harry.

“For me, the 2014 Games were just the start of the Invictus story. I wanted other cities and countries to look at the competition, see what it meant to those taking part and for those who saw it to take up the challenge for the next Games.

“I have no doubt that the USA will set the bar even higher than London did.”

Media analysts believe that due to the potential enormity of the TV coverage, after Orlando

the Invictus Games could become established as one of the world's top sporting events, joining the Superbowl, Olympics and World Cup as a must-see for billions, and which other leading nations will then after keenly compete to stage.

Further prestige for Harry's Games is expected as President Obama and First Lady Michelle are tipped to attend, along with other world leaders and sporting heroes.

But it will be the indomitable spirit of the competitors that is most likely to inspire viewers all over the planet and bring about a huge increase in support and sharing of Harry's admiration for the wounded of wars.

“The 2014 Invictus Games was an event that captured hearts, challenged minds and changed lives,” says Harry.

“The competitors showed grit, determination and humour and an absolute refusal to be beaten or be defined by their injuries. I can't wait to see the American public supporting



■ POPULAR STATESMAN: Prince Harry in America last week.

these inspirational men and women.”

“The word invictus means unconquered,” reads the promotion for the Games. “It embodies the fighting spirit of wounded, ill and injured military service personnel who are on their journey to recovery.

“Our mission is to honour the men and women who have come face to face with the reality of sacrificing for their country, using the power of

rehabilitative sports to help them. These heroes are the embodiment of everything the Invictus Games 2016 stand for.

“They have been tested, yet they have proven they cannot be defeated, inspiring us all to overcome our own obstacles and live with an Invictus spirit.”

Many believe that if Harry can spread that spirit around the globe then a major battle for its heroes will be won.

To that end the Prince met

President Obama during a visit to the US to promote the Games on Thursday.

Earlier he joined Michelle Obama to meet injured service personnel in Virginia, and then met Games organisers at the British ambassador's residence in Washington DC.

Harry told the American media that his deployments to Afghanistan “changed the direction” of his life.

He said that after returning to the UK on a flight with three critically injured British soldiers, he realised he had “a responsibility to help all veterans, who had made huge personal sacrifices for their countries, to lead healthy and dignified lives after service”.

He added: “I hope that Invictus 2016 will remind people everywhere just how incredible our service personnel are, and how much of a positive contribution to society they make.

“I am sure the American public will embrace the Invictus Games, just as the British public did in 2014.

“One thing we have to talk about more is breaking down these barriers around so-called invisible injuries, like post-traumatic stress, just as we have for physical injuries like the loss of a limb.

“We have to help [veterans] to get the support they need, without fear of being judged or discriminated against. Not only is it OK to talk about it, we have to talk about it.”

Men and trees... all fell



■ SUPPORTING ROLE: Duckboards in the trenches.

MILLIONS of trees were felled during the First World War to provide duckboards for the trenches in the battlefields.

Now the Princess Royal is leading a drive for a plant-back, as a lasting and personal way to honour all who made sacrifices in the war 100 years ago.

The Princess Royal will hold a fundraising dinner at Windsor Castle later this month for The Centenary Woods Project, of which she is patron.

Organised by The Woodland Trust, the project aims to plant hundreds of thousands of trees in four woods in the UK, the nearest being Langley Vale Wood near Epsom Downs. It was there, at Tadworth Camp, where thousands of recruits – including the 1st London Brigade – trained before being sent to the trenches.

The Trust aims to plant 240,000 trees at Langley Vale Wood over the next three years. Anyone who would like to dedicate a tree as a tribute can find details a www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

Festival of Remembrance

THE Royal British Legion's Festival of Remembrance will be broadcast live at 7pm on BBC1 from the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday, November 7.

Presented by Huw Edwards, the Festival will be performed in front of The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, members of the Royal Family, The Prime Minister and leaders of the Opposition, together with senior members of the military.

The festival line-up includes

Andrea Bocelli, Rod Stewart, Gregory Porter and Pixie Lott performing with the RAF Band, The Queen's Colour Squadron, The Band of HM Royal Marines and the Band and Pipes of the Brigade of Gurkhas.

It will also mark the following anniversaries: Blind Veteran's UK Centenary, the 200th Anniversary of Gurkha Service to the Crown, the Battle of Britain 75, and VJ Day 70.



■ PRESENTER: Huw Edwards.



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Poppy makers on a mission

ROYAL LONDON

Bid to get disabled veterans into work

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE London-based makers of the 45 million red poppies that will be worn as the nation remembers on Sunday are running their own campaign to remember the services veterans who are so often forgotten.

In a campaign close to the heart of Prince Harry and his work for injured ex-servicemen and women, The Poppy Factory at Richmond is working to a goal to bring the unemployment rate for disabled veterans down to none.

Ministry of Defence figures show that the jobless figure for medically-discharged service men and women is 16 per cent – more than three times the national unemployment rate for civilians [five per cent] and nearing double the nine per cent unemployment among non-in-

jured ex-servicemen.

“Our vision is one of zero tolerance – that no disabled veteran who wants to work should be out of work,” said a spokesman for The Poppy Factory, where 50 disabled vets produce the paper flowers that almost three quarters of the population will wear with pride on Remembrance Day.

“The Poppy Factory’s aspiration is that we should be working towards a goal that there should be no disabled veteran in the UK who is unemployed. None...zero! If they want to work, they can, with a wide range of good job opportunities available to them.

“Our mission is to help disabled veterans find meaningful, rewarding and sustainable employment – either directly as an employee in the factory or indirectly by supporting them into employment elsewhere.”



■ **LEGACY OF SACRIFICE:** The poem *In Flanders Fields* was written 100 years ago.

Four members of the Poppy Factory team will be among the 10,358 marchers from services associations who will parade through Whitehall on Sunday following the service led by The Queen at The Cenotaph.

Despite controversial recent efforts by the Government to shorten the event by proposing group wreath-laying at the nation’s memorial to the war dead, said to be so that the ranks of veterans would not have to spend so long waiting for the parade, they are still expected to be on their feet for more than two and a half hours as they will be assembling from 9am and the Cenotaph service will not conclude before 11.25am.

This year marks the effective centenary of the poppy for it was in 1915, shortly after losing a friend at the battle of Ypres, that a Canadian doctor, Lt Col John McCrae was inspired by the sight of poppies to write the now famous poem, *In Flanders Fields*. McCrae’s poem in turn inspired an American academic, Moina Michael, to make and sell red silk poppies which were then brought to England by a French woman, Anna Guérin, who persuaded Earl Haig to adopt the poppy for the Royal British Legion and sent French women to London to sell them in 1921.

In 1922 Major George Howson MC, an engineer who had

served on the Western Front in the First World War, founded the Disabled Society to help disabled ex-service men and women. Major Howson suggested to the legion that the society should make the poppies, and the artificial flowers were designed so that someone who had lost the use of a hand could assemble them.

With a grant of £2,000, he set up a small factory off the Old Kent Road with five ex-servicemen. It was here that the first British poppies were made.

In a letter to his parents at the time he wrote: “I have been given a cheque for £2,000 to make poppies with. It is a large responsibility and will be very

difficult. If the experiment is successful it will be the start of an industry to employ 150 men. I do not think it can be a great success, but it is worth trying. I consider the attempt ought to be made if only to give the disabled their chance.”

The legion ordered nine million of the poppies which were sold on November 11 that year. The poppies sold out almost immediately and the first ever Poppy Appeal raised over £106,000 – the equivalent of £4.6 million today. Last year the Poppy Appeal raised more than £45 million.

This year the Legion is calling for people to share why they wear their poppy using the hashtag #MyPoppy on social media. The campaign was launched by *Made In Chelsea* actress Millie Mackintosh, modelling a dress lined with 100 poppies created by fashion designer Giles Deacon.

She said: “My great grandfather, Lieutenant Douglas Mackintosh, lost his leg while serving our country in the First World War. Every year, I wear my poppy to remember him and the sacrifices he and everyone in the Armed Forces have made.

“I am proud to wear my dress for the #MyPoppy campaign and I hope it helps inspire people to share their poppy stories and raise funds for the great work that The Royal British Legion does in supporting and caring for the Armed Forces community.”

WHERE TO SEE A ROYAL THIS WEEK

FULL details of future and recent events in the ever-busy diaries of the many members of The Royal Family are available from the official website www.royal.gov.uk but here’s the London schedule for the week ahead for Where To See A Royal.

November 3

■ **The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Field Marshal, will attend the Senior Serving and Retired Officers’ Briefing at the Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall.

■ **The Countess of Wessex** will Chair a Charities Forum at Buckingham Palace.

■ **The Countess of Wessex**, as Patron, Caring for Life, will hold a meeting at Buckingham Palace.

■ **The Countess of Wessex** will attend the Harper’s Bazaar Women of the Year dinner at Claridges.

■ **The Duchess of Gloucester**, as President, Royal Academy of Music, will hold a dinner at Buckingham Palace.

■ **The Duke of Kent** will attend the Senior Serving and Retired Officers’ Briefing at The Army and Navy Club Pall Mall.

November 4

■ **The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Patron, British Heart Foundation, will hold a reception at St James’s Palace.

■ **The Duke of Edinburgh** will visit Crossrail’s underground construction site at Farringdon Station.

■ **The Princess Royal**, as Chair, International Olympic Committee Members Election Commission,

will hold a dinner at Buckingham Palace.

November 5

■ **The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Chief Patron, Surf Life Saving Great Britain, will give a lunch at Buckingham Palace.

■ **The Countess of Wessex**, as Vice-Patron, The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust, will attend the *Time to See* photography exhibition at Australia House, The Strand.

■ **The Countess of Wessex**, as Patron, Mencap, will attend the Lord Mayor’s Appeal, The Grand Finale ‘Back to the Future’ dinner at Guildhall, Gresham Street.

■ **The Princess Royal**, as Patron, The Royal College of Emergency Medicine, will attend a dinner at the Great Hall, Lincoln’s Inn.

■ **The Princess Royal**, as Chair, International Olympic Committee Members Election Commission, will chair an International Olympic Committee Members Election Commission Meeting at Buckingham Palace.

■ **The Princess Royal**, as Commandant-in-Chief, St John Ambulance, will hold a Reception for Young Achievers at Buckingham Palace.

■ **The Duke of Gloucester**, as Vice Patron, National Churches Trust, attends the Church Architecture Awards, Westminster Cathedral Hall.

November 6

■ **Princess Alexandra** will visit Spitalfields Crypt Trust at Christ Church Spitalfields E1.

November 7

■ **The Duchess of Gloucester**, as President, will visit the Junior Academy at the Royal Academy of Music, Marylebone Road.

■ **The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh** will attend the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall, together with The Earl and Countess of Wessex, the Princess Royal, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, the Duke of Kent and Princess Alexandra.

November 8

■ **The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh** with senior members of the Royal Family will attend the Remembrance Day service at The Cenotaph in Whitehall.

November 10

■ **The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Honorary Fellow, the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining, will open the Institute’s new premises at 297 Euston Road.

■ **The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Grand Master, Order of the British Empire, will attend Evensong for members of the Order, at St. Paul’s Cathedral.

■ **The Princess Royal**, as President, World Horse Welfare, will attend the Annual Conference at the Royal Geographical Society, Kensington Gore.

■ **The Duke of Gloucester** will attend a reception for Brazilian Health Ministers to be held at Tower Bridge.

■ **The Princess Royal**, as Patron, Opportunity International United Kingdom, will hold a dinner at Buckingham Palace.

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SHOWBIZ SPECIAL

Superstar sounds warning as gig venues close

Could Ed reverse London's grassroots music meltdown?

by Geoff Baker

IT is possibly unfair on Ed Sheeran to claim this, and thereby put such responsibility on such young shoulders, but if London's music-business-in-crisis should be listening to anybody at the moment, it should be to him.

By listening, I don't mean just hearing his staggeringly-successful songs, I mean listening to the informed views of the 24-year-old who now stands astride the planet as the most popular and influential guitarist since Eric Clapton.

Last week Mayor Boris Johnson sent up an urgent distress flare from City Hall to alert the town that London, for so long the music capital of the planet, is at grievous risk of losing its legend and status – as many have been saying for months.

Following an investigation and a grim report by the Mayor's Music Venues Taskforce, Boris revealed that 35 per cent of London's grassroots music venues, our little clubs and music pubs, have closed down since 2007 and consequently he was launching a "rescue plan" for what are the baby wards for the stars of tomorrow.

"It is feared," said Boris's press office, "that if this decline continues it could have major implications for the long term future of a creative and cultural sector that feeds into the UK's £3.8 billion music industry."

Now, people like singer-songwriter Tim Arnold, founder of the Save Soho campaign, and broadcaster Henry Scott-Irving, founder of Save Tin Pan Alley, have both been waving this red flag of warning for more than a year.

Both have admirably attracted thousands of signatories to their petitions and much celebrity support for their own alerts that London is approaching some sort of music scene disaster by closing the small clubs for flats and coffee shops.

But when the spokeswoman of the mayor of one of the top three cities in the world uses words like feared, decline and rescue plan, the situation becomes rammed home as dire; nobody needs to be rescued who isn't drowning. "Fear" is a strong word in the lexicon of local government and if Boris is openly admitting that he's frightened then the rest of us ought to sit up straight and pay rapt attention.

The press release for the Taskforce report revealed that of the 136 venues that existed in 2007 to give a stage and hopefully a break to new artists, only 88 of them now remain.

On the face of it that doesn't



■ **LIFELINE:** Ed Sheeran understands the value of London's small music venues for helping launch the music stars of the future.

sound too bad, 88 gigs; that sounds like quite a lot, quite a choice. But what the press release did not mention, but which reading of the report does, is that the calamity now facing music London is much worse.

For instance, the report states that there are now only six live music venues in the West End. For the music capital of the world, that is ridiculous; downtown Pyongyang probably has more than that.

It gets grimmer. As an example of how gigging is a struggle these days, the report cites Oxford Street's hallowed 100 Club, the iconic venue since 1942 for everyone from Glenn Miller and Louis Armstrong to The Sex Pistols, The Clash, the Stones and Paul McCartney and, more importantly, hundreds of fledgling bands.

The 100 Club, says the report, is paying £50,000 in business rates and £180,000 in rent and service charges. The report warns that a forthcoming rise in business rates could whack up the club's overheads to £100,000.

Is it any wonder that small venues are closing when even one of such legendary status faces the prospect of having to find the best part of £300,000 just to open?

So what to do? Should councils slap a blanket ban on any more clubs closing? Should developers be prevented by law

from building boutique hotels and flats anywhere that there's a man and his dog playing a banjo? Should neighbours who complain about the noise be ferreted out and relocated to a wood in Wales?

One wise move might be to listen to Ed Sheeran, because he has a different take on it that is not evident in the report's recommendations for the rescue plan.

It is, he agrees, very concerning that 35 per cent of grass roots venues have closed. But he adds: "I think most concerning now is promoters doing a pay-to-play thing".

Ah, now we're getting to the nitty gritty. Pay-to-play, or rather stuff-the-club-with-your-pals-to-play, is a practice, possibly a financially-necessary practice, which has been gradually growing in London for the past decade.

Around 2007, when I was helping to manage a young, unknown but extremely talented band, we first came up against this then rare obstacle in a very well-known West London venue. The band could play, we were told, if either they brought a substantial number of 'fans' - which of course, being unknown, they did not have, so they had to beg the support of their old schoolmates - or else the band's management would have to put a substantial sum of cash across the bar to guarantee the club's re-

quired minimum takings.

Ed Sheeran came to London in 2007 and began playing small venues. If the pay-to-play policy had widely existed then, the chances of Sheeran becoming the international superstar that he is now would probably have been nil; the 16-year-old from Suffolk had no mates in London, no pals to call on to artificially "paper" a gig.

"When I started playing here you were given a slot based upon you wanting a slot, not based upon how many people you could bring to a night," he said last week at the Leicester Square premiere of his new concert film, *Jumpers For Goalposts*.

The problem with pay-to-play is that you just end up bringing all your mates down and then you're just playing to the same crowd every night.

"So I think that before we start worrying about the venues we should start worrying about the people putting the nights on at the venues."

It does not require much imagination to hear London promoters protesting at such a statement. How are they supposed to make any money, they will reasonably cry, they are not charities and they are frequently close to only breaking even at best on a good night.

But there may be a solution to the dilemma which could be founded in the seemingly-gener-

ous nature of Sheeran himself.

First, we must consider his good example to those who would be the next big Ed. The young man who recently sold out three nights at Wembley Stadium knows from his recent history what it is like to play to a largely empty room. Like any band or artist who has ever become big, he knows the disappointment of drawing only a few punters and he knows too that the only way to beat that is through a determination to keep on trying.

"When I first came to London there was a website that listed every promoter that did acoustic nights and I emailed every single one," he said. "There was probably about 300 of those gigs and I got about 50 replies. I did all those gigs. And then I went back and did them again. And again."

So for any artist trying to make it – like a similar great talent, South Bank busker Emily Lee who will be playing at The Bulls Head in Barnes on November 24 – Sheeran's example is a sound one; no matter what the lack of available gigs, you have to keep at it. And if you do, and if you're good, your big break will come.

And when it does, when you have your record deal and when, like Sheeran, you are performing with Elton and Beyonce and the Stones and Spotify is naming you as the most-streamed artist in the world with more than 860 million streams of your songs in one year, then you can do your bit to save London's much-threatened small venues, which launched you, and help the struggling unknowns of whom you were one yourself just a blink ago.

For one proposal currently before Boris Johnson's music rescue force is that yesterday's fledglings, today's stars, do their profession's own incubation of the Sheerans and Adeles of tomorrow by giving a cut of their success directly back to the little clubs which gave birth to them all.

The idea is that a small levy is added to the ticket price of all gigs that sell to, say, more than 1,000 punters and to all records that enter the Top 40 – and that the money accumulated is then passed in the form of grants or subsidies to the grassroots clubs, thus removing promoters' need for pay-to-play, ensuring that the venues could stay open to raise the next stars and creating a system for constantly propagating London's live music industry.

Now it is no great secret that certain stars will howl murder at the idea of them giving a little bit back, even to help maintain the survival of their own profession, but Ed Sheeran is not thought to be among them. With huge record sales including six times platinum status for his debut album alone and tours that

sell tickets in hundreds of thousands, he and many other London-bred superstars could afford the levy – which actually would not cost him a penny as the subsidy would be passed on to the punter anyway.

And taking a lead on this would also fit with his philosophy, "be nice to everyone because you never know who is going to get to the top".

Whether Ed and Boris will see eye to eye on this is yet to be seen, although it might not be unlikely as Sheeran is a great example of the Mayor's enthusiasm for the benefits of apprenticeships over university.

You can't get much more of an apprenticeship in the music business than playing the same 50 gigs again and again and again and although ironically he was last month awarded an honorary doctorate at University Campus Suffolk, as he said at the ceremony, "for a musician you need more life university, rather than studying anything."

He added: "I'm not really the poster boy for education and I don't know if I can give advice on that side of things. I chose something I love and worked hard at it and didn't really listen to anyone who told me I couldn't do something. There's no key to success but the key to failure is trying to please everyone so make sure you please yourself."

Stars become stars because they are self-compelled to be them, they have a searing longing for fame that the rest of us do not share, they yearn to please themselves. And this drive pays dividends, for although the UK's music business may be in danger at grass roots level, at the top Brit pop is still thriving – one in eight records sold worldwide is by a British artist, most of them working out of London.

"London still has an importance, the music industry is London," Sheeran said last week. "You can't really make it without London in some way and London has been a massive part of it all for me, I've played almost every venue here."

He also announced recently that he intends to be taking some time off from making music as he's not had a break since he first started out in the small clubs eight years ago.

That could be great news for Boris because among the recommendations of his Music Venues Taskforce is a proposal to find someone with time on his hands to become a music tsar for London, an expert who would champion the capital's music scene and would be known, excellently, as "the Night Mayor".

Ed Sheeran to star as Night Mayor of Denmark Street? It has a ring to it.

■ **Jumpers For Goalposts** is in cinemas now.



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WINE & DINE

The food and
drink page for
West London

By Ella Walker

TOM Kerridge is grinning. "The other week I had to transport something to the Kent coast via North London in a white van," he says.

"I had my arm out the window, my boxer dog sat next to me in the front, and I was picking up big pieces of metal and sticking them in a transit van. I loved it - I was in my element."

You can't doubt it.

A big burr of a man, the Salisbury-born chef is all Adidas shell suits and West Country twangs, but he's just as at home in his two-star Michelin pub, The Hand And Flowers, in Marlow, and is currently celebrating his third cook book, *Tom's Table*.

It's all about "extracting as much flavour as possible" from food, "and making it social", he explains. "They're all recipes and dishes that I do eat, want to eat and make at home."

One of his favourites is the "phenomenal" green chilli con carne. "It's dry roasted mince, it goes really crispy - tastes fantastic," he says, going off into a reverie.

When he first started cooking, for his little brother after school, the menu was a tad less gourmet and featured a lot of fish finger sandwiches, Findus Crispy Pancakes and Birds Eye Potato Waffles.

"I don't still cook those things - that's a complete lie actually! My wife Beth was desperate for a fish finger sandwich last week, so I did make her one," he says, ruefully.

His celebrity clientele wouldn't appreciate that kind of fare, though. The Hand has served Liam Neeson, Tom Jones, George Clooney and Bill Murray, although annoyingly Kerridge missed Murray.

"I was absolutely gutted," he admits, adding he was with his wife in hospital after she had an operation.

They also get quite a few premier league footballers in, and Kerridge loves his football.

"A pub is part of a community and if we can help another community project like Marlow FC, then we do in any way we can," he says passionately. "Young chefs, young footballers; there's a synergy. By the age of 40, you're too tired to be doing 18-hour days cooking in the sauce section. It's



■ ZEST FOR LIFE: Tom Kerridge. Below left, Tom's latest cook book.

Tom's secret ingredients: caffeine and adrenaline

the same for footballers; you're not going to be running round the pitch."

Between TV commitments, an upcoming pop-up at Harrods, the books and the pubs, it's difficult to imagine 42-year-old Kerridge slowing down.

"I work on caffeine and adrenaline," he confesses. "I'm always thinking about what we've got next. It's like, if I was still nine, I'd be riding round on bikes in the car park, getting on a skateboard and then playing on the swings!"

A big kid at heart, he might produce beautiful, world-class food, but he's definitely not averse to a bit of fun in the kitchen.

"Gimmicks are cool, if they're encouraging," he says, fully on board with new service Cheese Posties, which, as it sounds, sends you all the ingredients for a gourmet cheese toastie, by post.

"I wish I'd thought of that!" he muses. "What a nice idea. If people are getting access to really interesting cheese, and you're making it yourself, then it's encouraging you to cook something

which might spur you on to make something else."

When it comes to his favourite ingredients, he narrows it down to two.

First pork, because "without pork there is no bacon", and second water: "A lot of chefs overlook water."

Not Kerridge; in fact, in another life, he'd have made water his livelihood.

"I always fancied being a fisherman on a trawler. I like the camaraderie and hard physical work. As a 20-year-old, I loved nothing better than doing huge hours in basement kitchens and never seeing daylight," Kerridge adds. "I absolutely loved it, the almost dig-dig attitude you have to have to get through the day, because the huge sense of achievement at the end outweighs the negativity, it's an adrenaline-filled buzz."

Then again, he is allergic to shellfish...

Here is a recipes from *Tom's Table* to sink your teeth into...

POLLOCK WITH ORANGE AND DILL

(Serves four) Vegetable oil, for frying; flaky sea salt.

For the dressing: 3 unwaxed oranges; 100ml olive oil; 150ml cider vinegar; 75g caster sugar; a small bunch of dill, chopped; a few sprigs saved for the garnish; 2tbsp Douglas is allergic to shellfish...

For the coating: 175g coarse yellow cornmeal; 40g plain ating; 1tsp salt; 1tsp cayenne pepper; 1tsp garlic powder.

For the garnish: 1 orange, peeled, all pith removed and cut into segments.

First make the dressing. Pare the zest from two oranges with a vegetable peeler, keeping a little of the pith on, and cut into small chunks. Place in a small saucepan, cover with the olive oil and heat very gently over a low heat for 20 minutes, or until the skin is just soft. Take off the heat and leave to cool.

Squeeze the juice from all the oranges and put into a small pan with the cider vinegar and sugar. Bring to the boil, stirring to dissolve the sugar. Let it bubble to reduce by two-thirds until thickened and syrupy. Pour into a bowl and allow to cool.

Add the orange zest and olive oil mix to the orange juice reduction and whisk to combine. Stir in the chopped dill and pine needles if using, and set aside until ready to serve.

For the fish coating, mix all the ingredients together in a large bowl. Heat 2cm depth of oil in a deep-sided frying pan or saute pan until it reaches 180C. Use a frying thermometer to check the temperature, if you have one, otherwise, drop a cube of dry white bread into the hot oil to test it - if the bread turns golden brown in just under a minute, the oil is ready.

Dust the fish fillets on both sides with the cornmeal coating, shaking off any excess. Lay the fish in the pan and fry for two to three minutes on each side until the crust is crisp and golden brown. Using a fish slice, transfer to a tray lined with kitchen paper to drain. Season lightly with salt.

Serve the pollock fillets on warmed plates, garnished with the orange segments and dill, with the dressing spooned over.

MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK



Sesame prawn balls with chilli

Serves four

THESE are a bit like a high-end version of those greasy prawn toasts you get in cheap Chinese restaurants.

You can serve them as a snack or a starter. To make them look really classy, you could try a mix of black and white sesame seeds.

Ingredients

16 medium-sized raw, large, sea-water prawns
2tsp finely grated root ginger
2 spring onions, trimmed and finely chopped
2tsp sake or dry sherry
Sea salt
2tbsp sesame seeds
Vegetable or corn oil for deep frying
Good quality chilli sauce, such as Lingham's, to serve

Method

REMOVE the heads and shells from the prawns but leave the tail attached.

With a sharp knife cut the prawns in half, leaving half of the flesh attached to the tail. Chop or blend the rest of the meat finely.

Mix the ginger, spring onion and sake with the chopped prawn meat, then season.

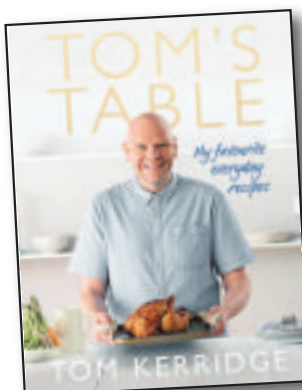
Divide the mixture evenly to the number of tails, and mould into a ball over each prawn leaving the tail sticking out at one end and pointing upwards. Lightly wetting your hands when doing this sometimes helps the mixture to stick.

Dip the prawns carefully in the sesame seeds so they stick to the mixture. Ensure the flesh is covered and realign the tails if necessary.

Preheat about 8cm of oil to 150-160C in a large thick-bottomed saucepan or electric deep fat fryer. Fry the prawns for 2-3 minutes until a light golden colour and drain on kitchen paper, then transfer to a serving platter with the sauce.



■ TUCK IN: Sesame prawn balls with chilli, the latest mouth-watering dish from leading chef Mark Hix. Enjoy another one next week.



Talk Of The Town

Music | Theatre | Reviews

Wicked *****

AS *Wicked*, the epic West End musical, welcomed its seven millionth theatregoer to London's Apollo Victoria Theatre, I was invited to the annual media night to see how the new cast were settling into the show set in the magical land of Oz, writes Nicky Sweetland.

The production charts the life and times of *The Wicked Witch of the West*, the green skinned character from L Frank Baum's famous book *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, which was made famous by the 1939 Oscar-winning film starring Judy Garland. It takes an alternative look at the witch's life up to and including the events on the yellow brick road, with interesting echoes of political dictatorships and propaganda filled governments wrapped in a perfectly weighted fairy story. The cleverly layered tale has perfect dabs of comedy and tragedy and even touches on social issues like bullying and discrimination.

The leading character of the green witch Elphaba is one of the most sought after roles in musical theatre history and is currently being portrayed by the phenomenal Emma Hatton. Hatton has been playing the Wicked Witch of the West for two years, first understudying the likes of West End and Broadway heavyweights Willemijn Verkaik and Kerry Ellis before taking the role as her own back in January.

The 32-year-old singer has really grown into the part and is fast becoming a West End legend in her own right. The role is extremely vocally challenging but with some rock star riffs and spine tingling phases, Hatton smashed the roof off the place with her version of the show's famous anthem *Defying Gravity*.

The unusual thing about this show is that the two leads are both women, and the part of the good witch Glinda is currently being expertly played by the effervescent Savannah Stevenson. Stevenson is mesmerising as the superficial preppy bimbo who soon realises there is more to the world than her shoe collection. With gorgeous, soaring vocals and a wonderful skip and bounce to her performance, she brings delight to the stage whenever she appears.

Alongside the two girls and stalwart Katie Rowley Jones, who recently returned to the show as Nessarose, is a fresh new cast who have perfectly integrated into the fantasy world. Daniel Hope as the



■ HISTORY MAKERS: The cast of *Wicked*, enthralled West End audiences over and over again.

It's not just Wicked, it's pure magic

Munchkin Boq, Liza Sadovy as Madame Morrible and Tom McGowan all bring a renewed energy and interest to the well worn characters.

The other new face in Oz is Oliver Saville, who plays the Winky Prince Fiyero. His chemistry with both Hatton and Stevenson is electric and his portrayal of the arrogant and superficial heartthrob is tremendous. I spoke to Oliver about the role and he told me how he sees Fiyero.

"He's been to school after school and he's the sort of guy who takes life with a pinch of salt. It's a big old laugh for him. He sings a song called *Dancing Through Life* and that's literally how he lives his life on the surface; well, that's what we think. He's a cool guy."

This was my 11th visit, but I'm a mere amateur in comparison to many of the show's devoted followers. Now in its tenth year, it really does offer everything you could possibly want from a musical. Oliver was a fan before he joined the cast and actually watched it for the first time just

after it opened in London. He told me why he thinks *Wicked* has such a lasting appeal.

"I think everybody can relate to it. It is like real life, but the world you are immersed in is not real. It rains sideways!"

"There are characters people can relate to and with the music and everything it's a cracking show. I can't sell it enough."

Oliver's character forms one corner of a love triangle with the two witches but although he's an important part of the story, the main theme of love is really centred on the bond of friendship between the girls. Oliver talks to me about working alongside two such astounding performers.

"I love hearing the girls every day. I'm in musical theatre heaven with *Defying Gravity*, *No Good Deed* and when they sing *For Good*."

This five-star show should be seen by everyone at least once. With its new cast perfectly balanced with the old guard, *Wicked* still makes London positively emerald and I'm sure will continue to do so for many years to come.

Davro on tour after eviction

COMEDIAN, impressionist, actor and reality star Bobby Davro has announced a 20-date UK tour for 2016.

The entertainer has most recently featured on *Celebrity Big Brother* and became a favourite with audiences for his wit and tolerance, eventually coming in fourth place after making it right through to the final.

Bobby made his TV debut in 1981, but his major breakthrough came with an appearance in *Live At Her Majesty's* in 1983. This was followed by *Copy Cats* and his very own Saturday night series for ITV. Bobby topped the ratings for six consecutive years with his winning formula in shows like *Bobby Davro On The Box*, *Bobby's Sketch Pad* and *TV Weekly*.

The star, who has also appeared on BBC1's *Eastenders*, will tour the UK next year, starting at the Epsom Playhouse and finishing off at Chesterfield's the Winding Wheel.

If you'd like more information or would like to book tickets you can visit the website atgtickets.com

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Talk Of The Town

london Listings

Soul Night at Koko, Camden

November 10

Tony Blackburn's legendary Soul Night, in which the DJ is joined on stage by artists including The Three Degrees, Shaun Escoffery, Lemar, Diane Shaw, Jaki Graham, Kenny Thomas and Odyssey, will take place on Tuesday, November 10 at London's Koko, Camden. Tickets for this special evening are £30. From this a minimum of £12.50 will be donated to BBC Children In Need. Blackburn said: "I think the annual soul night is well and truly here to stay. I can't wait to get back on that stage alongside this year's artists for some great performances, and it's all for a great cause!" David Robey, BBC Radio London editor, said: "Tony's Soul Night was a huge success in the 1980s on BBC Radio London, so it feels appropriate to stage another Soul Night revival to coincide with the return of our radio station's name to BBC Radio London."

Elf the musical at the Dominion Theatre

November 5 to January 2

This year's festive must-see show is going to be this heart-warming extravaganza. The show, based on the 2003 film which starred Will Ferrell in the title role, was a smash hit on Broadway and is likely to be London's hottest ticket this season, despite the much reported high ticket prices. The show stars former Girls Aloud songstress Kimberley Walsh alongside West End heart throb Ben Forster, who will once again play the eponymous hero after wowing audiences last year in the role in both Plymouth and Dublin.

Importance of Being Earnest at the Vaudeville Theatre

To November 7

David Suchet stars as Lady Bracknell in Oscar Wilde's much loved masterpiece. Directed by Adrian Noble, Wilde's superb satire on Victorian manners is one of the funniest plays in the English language – the delightful repartee and hilarious piercing of hypocrisy and pomposity can still make you laugh out loud. www.importanceofearnest.com

Carmen at the Royal Opera House

To November 30

Experience the power and magnetism of Bizet's most popular opera as Carmen returns to the stage at the Royal Opera House. His 17th and final opera, Carmen tells the story of Don Jose, an inexperienced young soldier seeking to marry Micaela, a girl that he knows from his home village. His plans are thrown wildly off course when he encounters the alluring Carmen, a sensual and spirited woman very different from his intended bride. Carmen soon becomes bored with Don Jose and turns her attentions to the toreador Escamillo, falling in love with him to the despair of Jose. Unable to control his emotions, Don Jose hunts down Carmen and discovers her at the bullring where Escamillo is fighting. With murderous

intentions, the young soldier seeks a violent resolution to the entangled romance. Flamboyant, passionate and violent, Bizet's work has lost none of its appeal since its debut in the 19th century. With rousing music that includes the Toreador Song and Carmen's famous Habanera, all the ingredients are here for a truly great opera.

The Old Vic Variety Nights

November 15

Nostalgia lovers will warm to this most traditional of shows, featuring Tim Minchin and the magician Dynamo. For details, see the website oldvictheatre.com

The World Goes Pop at the Tate Modern

Until January 24, 2016

Over 200 works by artists from Latin America to Asia celebrates the many faces of pop art. This show isn't about the pop art you know, it's about the pop art that escaped the history books. And it certainly packs a punch. It's fun, engaging, colourful, revelatory, opinionated, racy and stunning. Most importantly the show illuminates how pop wasn't confined to Andy Warhol's Factory in New York or Richard Hamilton's studio in London – it was a phenomenon that reached much further, practiced by artists in Peru, Israel, Argentina, Japan, Brazil and Eastern Europe. In an opening gallery painted scintillating red, the work quite literally pops off the walls. Here, traditional techniques are turned on their head, such as Japanese woodblock printing in Ushio Shinohara's 'Doll Festival', (1966) which is reinvigorated with the use of industrial materials like Perspex. Moving on, you'll find the mimicry of media and the language of mass production, the repetition of advertising strategies and consumerist logos, the appropriation of icons from popular culture, the re-evaluation of the role of women and the subversion of political symbolism. It makes for a riveting, eye-opening group exhibition that re-educates us on a movement that really reached out to embrace us – and continues to do so.

The Barber of Seville at the London Coliseum

To November 11

The Barber of Seville will have you smiling from the moment it begins. Filled with fun and farce, this sunny adventure follows the escapades of the barber Figaro as he assists Count Almaviva to prise the beautiful yet feisty Rosina away from her lecherous guardian Dr Bartolo. Set in an elegant vision of 18th-century Seville, Jonathan Miller's much-loved production returns to the Coliseum and remains as side-splittingly funny as ever. For this revival, the talented Christopher Allen will conduct Rossini's sparkling score, packed full of wit and playful tunes.



■ COMEDY GREATS: Marty Feldman's career is studied afresh by Terry Jones.

Funny how things turn out

MONTY Python legend Terry Jones is to direct the world premiere of *Jeepers Creepers*, a play about comedy star Marty Feldman and his ambitious wife, Laurretta.

The play is written by Marty's best-selling biographer Robert Ross, and stars David Boyle and Rebecca Vaughan.

The plot follows Feldman as he makes the leap across the pond after scoring success in this country with his classic comedies *The Army Game* and *Round the Horne*. With more success in Hollywood and a

wife who is more than at home living the glamorous lifestyle, Feldman should feel accomplished but is instead blighted by the burden of fame.

Jeepers Creepers charts one of the most powerful and complex partnerships in comedy, through the unique gaze of one of the greatest: Marty Feldman.

Director Jones has a personal connection to the play's subject – he wrote sketches for and appeared in *It's Marty* with Marty Feldman in the late 1960s. He said: "When I joined

the writing team for *The Frost Report*, the first person to say 'hello' and make me feel welcome was Marty Feldman. He was one of those very kind and very funny people who helped all the Pythons along the way. It's lovely to be able to say a belated thank-you by bringing him back to eye-popping life – sort of – on the London stage."

The play runs in a four-week season in the Lounge at Leicester Square Theatre from Monday, January 18 to Saturday, February 20.

Old Vic takes us back to variety

THE Old Vic has just announced the first of its variety nights, which will take place on Sunday, November 15 – and provide a comforting return to the greatest of West End theatre traditions.

An integral part of Matthew Warchus' vision as artistic director, *The Old Vic Variety Nights* embrace theatre's history and its roots in music, dance and vaudeville.

Tickets are now on sale for the first of the shows, with a line-up including the multi-award winning Tim Minchin, the acclaimed magician Dynamo and the Tredegar Town Band.

The aim of the variety nights is to reinvigorate a much cherished and nostalgic format with a contemporary twist, combining established names in music, magic and comedy with the very best of a new generation of talent.

Warchus commented: "Three of my favourite things are music, magic and comedy,



■ LIVE FAVOURITE: Award-winning Tim Minchin.

hence my eagerness to introduce a series of *Old Vic Variety Nights*. We're looking forward to seeing the Old Vic lit up on a Sunday night welcoming all kinds of audiences, both old friends and

newcomers, to see famous faces mixed with new talent in evenings of laughter and really great entertainment."

If you would like more details visit the theatre's website oldvictheatre.com

This is a FREE listings service for local charitable and community organisations.

Email your listings to: listings@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Talk Of The Town



By **NICKY SWEETLAND**
LWN Theatre Critic

THE New Wimbledon Theatre is all set to welcome in the 60s this week when the smash hit musical *Hairspray* pays a visit as part of the nationwide tour.

The multi award winning musical which follows the larger than life Tracy Turnblad in her quest for equality and TV stardom, stars former *Brookside* favourite Claire Sweeney as station owner Velma Von Tussle. Sweeney has been playing the role since September and is enjoying exploring her nasty side.

She told me: "It's brilliant actually but I've done it before in panto. I played the evil queen in panto so it's kind of nothing new, although in a musical it is. Oh, she's evil. She's a racist she's a fascist, she's everything you can imagine. She's just vile."

Sweeney first found fame in the famous Channel 4 soap before climbing the celebrity ladder further by taking part in the first series of *Celebrity Big Brother*. No stranger to the stage, she won high acclaim for her portrayal of murderer Roxie Hart in the West End production of *Chicago* in 2002 and then went on to score success in other musicals, including *Gypsy* and *Dolls* and the Andrew Lloyd Webber one-woman show, *Tell Me on a Sunday*.

Claire has also been a regu-



■ **COLOURFUL LANGUAGE:** Claire Sweeney, right, is fabulously foul-mouthed in *Hairspray*.

She's Claire favourite for bad girl role

lar panellist on ITV's *Loose Women*, something which might have helped her to get to grips with the vicarious and voluptuous Velma Von Tussle.

"My character is so glamorous. I look like my mother! I'm full of diamanté, beautiful flamboyant colours, an updo. It's just such a fabulous, elegant, glamorous character with a mouth like a sewer."

Set in the 60s, the show tackles the issue of racial equality but also paints a colourful and interesting picture of the Baltimore of the time.

Claire told me why she thinks the show has such a winning formula.

"It's wonderful. There are catchy tunes, there's humour in it, there's pathos in it. You'll leave the theatre absolutely up-

lifted but there's also great messages in it as well."

■ **Hairspray** will be playing at the New Wimbledon Theatre until November 7. For more details visit the show's dedicated website – hairsprayuktour.com



Harry's back – and he's in double trouble

THE epic new two-part play about the magical world of Harry Potter will appear in London in June, and tickets to the show are looking like they will be affordable for family audiences.

The play based on an original story by J K Rowling, Jack Thorne and John Tiffany, will open at the Palace Theatre in July, with tickets to the preview performances from £10. Once the show has opened you will be able to get tickets from £15 per performance and there will also be a reduced price lottery for tickets to every show.

■ **Harry Potter and the Cursed Child** is the eighth story in the Harry Potter series and the first official Harry Potter story to be presented on stage. It is set 19 years after the last of the Potter adventures, *The Deathly Hallows* and shows the adult Harry coping with both his past life and his present, with the pressures of fatherhood weighing heavy on his shoulders.

J K Rowling said about the next chapter: "The story only exists because the right group of people came together with a brilliant idea about how to present Harry Potter on stage. I'm confident that when audiences see *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* they will understand why we chose to tell this story in this way."



■ **POTTER'S BACK:** This time in a two-part stage play.

Featuring a cast of over 30, *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* is one play presented in two parts. Both parts are intended to be seen in order on the same day (matinee and evening), or on two consecutive evenings.

Here is how it works:
■ On Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays there will be a matinee performance of Part One and an evening performance of Part Two. For the initial on-sale period, one ticket will automatically secure the same seat for both Part One and Part Two on the same day.

■ For subsequent booking periods, tickets for Wednesday matinee and Wednesday evening performances can be bought together or separately. Details of when Saturday and Sunday performances of Parts One and Part Two can be bought separately will be announced at a later date.

■ On Thursdays there will be an evening performance of Part One and on Fridays an evening performance of Part Two. On those days tickets to each part can be bought together or separately.

■ Tickets go on sale on October 30 but if you haven't quite got to grips with the complexities of booking the two-part play, further details can be found on the website harrypottertheplay.com

Welcome to world where you never grow up

A BRAND new take on the JM Barrie classic *Peter Pan* story, *The Boy Who Never Grew Up* will come to the studio at the Lyric Hammersmith on November 7, writes Nicky Sweetland.

The play, by acclaimed writer and director Amelia Bird, invites you into the world where happy thoughts take you flying high, where pirates roam the seas and where magic and adventure is impossible to hide from. I chatted to Amelia about the show, which has already proved to be a smash hit at the box office.

"It's an adaptation of the Peter Pan story. We created the imaginary world of Neverland and in our story there are two adventurers who show us all around Neverland. They get the audience involved to have their very own adventure."

The company welcomes you to the world where you never grow up, a special adventure in which you can visit Peter Pan's underground home, see how he befriended the Indians,

escaped drowning in a lagoon, scaled a mountain and outwitted his nemesis Captain Hook. But this isn't just the story you've seen on screen or read in the book, there are adventures of your own to be had. Amelia said: "The set aesthetic is a bit like children have gathered loads of things from a park and have turned them into the world of Neverland, so we have wooden planks which become a crocodile and we've made a lot of puppets from sort of found materials, bits of wood and leaves and things like that. The idea is that it's encouraging people to use their imaginations a bit more to see the things that are being made."

With live music, puppetry and fun, this is a show of imagination and magic for anyone who wishes to never ever grow up. It's suitable for ages four and up and although virtually sold out, Amelia has hinted that there is likely to be another show added for more families to enjoy.

For more details visit lyric.co.uk



■ **IMAGINE THAT:** The Boy Who Never Grew Up will come to the studio at the Lyric.

Classified

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Public Notices

**LONDON BOROUGH OF
HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984.
THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM (20 MPH
SPEED LIMIT)
(CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMEN NO. *)
ORDER 20****

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham propose to make the above named Order under section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended by the Local Government Act 1985, and the Road Traffic Act 1991.
2. The general effect of the proposed Order would be to amend the Hammersmith and Fulham (20 MPH Speed Limit) (Consolidation) Order 2010 (LBHF No. 737) by prohibiting any vehicle being driven at a speed in excess of 20 mph on the roads listed in the Schedule attached to this notice.
3. A copy of the proposed Order, and of plans and documents giving more detailed particulars of the proposed Order, can be inspected during normal office hours on Mondays to Fridays inclusive, until 6 weeks have elapsed from the date on which either the Order is made or the Council decides not to make the Order, at: **Transportation Policy Group, transport and technical services Department, Town Hall Extension, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 9JU.**
4. Any person wishing to object to the making of the proposed Order may send a statement in writing of their objection and the grounds on which it is made to the Assistant Director Highways and Engineering at the address above within 21 days of the date of this notice being published.

Dated this 28th day of October 2015

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

SCHEDULE

- a) Imperial Road, between its junctions with Harwood Terrace and the Boulevard.
- b) Townmead Road, between its junction with Harbour Avenue and the north-eastern building wall of Nacovia House, Townmead Road.

**BRIDGET ELIZABETH
HARPER (Deceased)**

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925, notice is hereby given that any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 29 Redcliffe Close, Old Brompton Road, London SW5 9HY, who died on 12/12/2014 are required to send written particulars to the undersigned on or before 13/1/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM (AUSTRALIA ROAD)(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2015

THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM (DOCTORS BAYS) AMENDMENT (No. 08) ORDER 2015

THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM (PARKING PLACES, ZONE O) AMENDMENT (No. 03) ORDER 2015

THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM (WAITING AND LOADING RESTRICTION) (CONSOLIDATION) AMENDMENT (No. 50) ORDER 2015

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham made the above-mentioned Orders under the powers granted by sections 6 and 124 of, and Part IV of Schedule 9 to, the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended.
2. The general effect of the Hammersmith and Fulham Australia Road Prohibition of Traffic Order 2015 would be to prohibit vehicular traffic in the section of highway described in the Schedule to this Notice. This prohibition will not apply to pedal cyclists.
3. The general effect of the above Parking Places Doctors Bays Amendment No. 08 Order 2015 would be to further amend the Hammersmith and Fulham Doctors Parking Places Order 2005 in so far that doctors parking bays would be revoked in the section of highway described in the Schedule to this notice.
4. The general effect of the above Parking Places Zone O Amendment No 03 Order 2015 would be to further amend the Hammersmith and Fulham Parking Places, Zone O Order 2013 in so far that parking places would be revoked in the section of highway described in the Schedule to this notice.
5. The general effect of the Hammersmith and Fulham (Waiting and Loading Restriction) (Consolidation) (Amendment No. 50) Orders 2015 would be to further amend the Hammersmith and Fulham (Waiting and Loading Restriction) (Consolidation) Order 2009 so that waiting and/or loading restrictions would be revoked in the section of highway described in the Schedule to this notice.
6. A copy of the proposed Orders, the Councils statement of reasons for proposing to make the Orders and documents giving more detailed particulars of the proposed Orders, can be inspected during normal office hours on Mondays to Fridays inclusive until the end of a period of 6 weeks beginning with the date on which the Orders are made, or as the case may be, the Council decides not to make the Orders
7. Any person wishing to object to the proposed Orders or make other representations should send a statement in writing to the following address : **Transport and Technical Services Group, Highways and Engineering Division, Environment Department, Town Hall Extension, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 9JU** until the expiration of 21 days from the date on which the notice is published.

Dated this 28th day of October 2015

Chris Bainbridge

Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

SCHEDULE

Australia Road, between its junctions with India Way and Canada Way.

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM (PARKING PLACES, ZONE "A") (AMENDMENT No. *)

ORDER 20**

THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM (PARKING PLACES, ZONE "V") (AMENDMENT No. *)

ORDER 20**

THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM (WAITING AND LOADING RESTRICTION) (CONSOLIDATION) AMENDMENT (No. **) ORDER 20**

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham propose to make the above-mentioned Orders under the powers granted by sections 6, 45, 46, 49 and 124 of, and Part IV of Schedule 9 to, the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended.
2. The general effect of the above proposed Hammersmith and Fulham (Parking Places, Zone A)(Amendment No**) Order 20** would be to further amend the Hammersmith and Fulham (Parking Places, Zone A) Order 2008 in so far that parking places would be amended and/or introduced and/or revoked in certain lengths of Felgate Mews.
3. The general effect of the above proposed Hammersmith and Fulham (Parking Places, Zone V)(Amendment No**) Order 20** would be to further amend the Hammersmith and Fulham (Parking Places, Zone V) Order 2012 in so far that parking places would be amended and/or introduced and/or revoked in certain lengths of Hemlock Road.
4. The general effect of the Hammersmith and Fulham (Waiting and Loading Restriction) (Consolidation) (Amendment No. **) Order 20** would be to further amend the Hammersmith and Fulham (Waiting and Loading Restriction) (Consolidation) Order 2009 so that waiting and/or loading restrictions would be amended and/or introduced and/or revoked in certain lengths of Down Place, The Curve, Lilac Street, Hemlock Road, Studland Street and Felgate Mews.
5. A copy of the proposed Orders, the Councils statement of reasons for proposing to make the Orders and documents giving more detailed particulars of the proposed Orders, can be inspected during normal office hours on Mondays to Fridays inclusive until the end of a period of 6 weeks beginning with the date on which the Orders are made, or as the case may be, the Council decides not to make the Orders.
6. Any person wishing to object to the proposed Orders or make other representations should send a statement in writing to the following address: **Transport and Technical Services Group, Highways and Engineering Division, Environment Department, Town Hall Extension, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 9JU** until the expiration of 21 days from the date on which the notice is published.

Dated this 9th day of October 2015

Chris Bainbridge

Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

Local Planning Applications

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

I give notice that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows:

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA

Former BBC Television Centre Wood Lane W1 22015/02497/FUL

Alterations to south eastern elevation of BBC Studios 2 and 3 comprising installation of 10 louvred panels at second floor level and installation of new louvre window on Scenery runway elevation (Revised Description of Development).

11 Gunterstone Road W14 2015/04950/FR3

Replacement of existing single glazed, timber, vertical sliding sash windows to the front elevation with new double glazed timber, vertical sliding sash windows. Replacement of existing single glazed timber, vertical sliding sash windows to the rear and side elevations with new double glazed PVCu vertical sliding sash Rehau Heritage windows. Replacement of existing timber door to the side elevation with new double glazed PVCu door.

110 Sinclair Road W14 2015/04962/FUL

Minor material amendment to previously approved planning permission ref: 2015/02138/FUL granted 17th July 2015 for the 'Erection of an additional floor at roof level with associated skylight; formation of a roof terrace at fourth floor level to the rear elevation; erection of masonry parapet to the front elevation at fourth floor level.' Amendments to the rear glazing at fourth floor level to the rear elevation.

White City One Media Village W12 2015/04899/FUL

Replacement of external glazing on outward and inward-facing elevations within the internal courtyard along with the partial replacement of external cladding panels

Flat Basement And Ground Floors 57 Gunterstone Road W142015/04741/FUL

Erection of rear extensions at upper ground and lower ground floor level; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement; alterations to the rear fenestration at lower ground and upper ground floor level; enlargement of the existing terrace including the erection of new railings at upper ground floor level to the rear elevation; erection of new external steps from lower ground floor to garden level and extending the party wall at the rear of the property; installation of a new door to the side of single storey extension at lower ground floor level to the front of the property.

13 Kimbell Gardens SW6 2015/04372/FUL

Demolition and rebuilding of entire building with exception of existing front facade and party walls; Erection of a rear roof extension involving an increase in the ridge height by 250mm; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; excavation of front garden and part of rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the creation of a new basement (amended description)

146 - 148 Old Oak Road W3 2015/04879/FUL

Use of property nos. 146 and 148 Old Oak Road as a single family dwellinghouse.

1 Binden Road W12 2015/04659/FUL

Conversion of property from a self-contained single family dwelling house into 2no. separate self-contained single family dwelling houses.

London Grove Hotel 102 Hammersmith Grove W6 2015/04966/FUL

Erection of a single storey timber framed and clad annexe building to the rear of the rear garden to contain an additional one bedroom unit for the existing hotel.

Maisonette First And Second Floor 66 Sedlescombe Road SW6 2015/04968/FUL

Installation of 2no. rooflights in the front roofslope and 2no. rooflights in the rear roofslope; and replacement of 2no. windows at second floor level and 2no. windows at first floor level on the rear elevation with double-glazed timber windows.

31A North End Road W14 2015/04948/ADV

Display of one externally illuminated and one non illuminated fascia signs; display of an externally illuminated projecting sign.

Advertising Under Bridge Wood Lane White City W12 2015/04915/ADV

Display of an internally illuminated advertisement panel measuring 3m (height) x 12m (width) x 0.4m (depth) following the removal of 2no existing advertisement panels.

26 Finlay Street SW6 2015/04995/FUL

Erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; formation of a roof terrace at second floor level to the rear elevation.

1 Rylett Studios 77 Rylett Crescent W12 2015/04791/FUL

Change of use of the existing building from office (Class B1) into 1 x 4 bedroom single family dwellinghouse (Class C3); formation of a roof terrace at first floor to the side elevation; installation of 2no rooflights in the side roofslope; installation of a new window to replace the existing door at ground floor level to the front elevation.

23 Agate Road W6 2015/04922/FUL

Excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement.

34 Ravenscourt Gardens W6 2015/04988/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; installation of 3no rooflights in the front roofslope.

21 Richford Street W6 2015/04934/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition at lower ground floor level; erection of a single storey extension, to the side of the existing back addition at ground floor level; erection of a rear extension at first floor level; replace existing windows from uPVC to timber sash windows to front elevation.

212 New King's Road SW6 2015/04924/FUL

Change of use of part of the ground floor from retail (Class A1) into an office (Class B1); formation of a plant enclosure at roof level; alterations to the external fenestration at ground floor level to include removal of existing doors and windows, installation of new windows to the northern, southern and western elevation of the building; installation of new double glazed entrance doors and double glazed sliding folding doors to the southern elevation, and new double glazed doors to the western elevation of the building; alterations to the rooftop of the single storey building; associated external alterations.

100 Brook Green W6 2015/04947/FUL

Erection of a part one, part two, part three storey extension at ground, first and second floor level to the side of the main dwellinghouse following the demolition of the single storey outbuilding in the rear garden, demolition of part of ground floor and first floor extension to the side of the main building; erection of a two storey rear extension at ground and first floor level following partial demolition of the single storey back addition; installation of a new dormer window in the rear roofslope; replacement of 2no windows with new windows at second floor level, replacement of 2no windows with French doors and Juliet balconies at first floor level, replacement of existing doors and windows with new French doors at ground floor level to the rear elevation; replacement of existing windows with new double glazed windows to the front elevation; erection of a single storey bike store, new brick columns, pedestrian entrance gate and railings on top of existing boundary wall at the front of the property; erection of a rear garden boundary wall; paving of the front garden, associated landscaping and external alterations.

Westcott Lodge 22 Lower Mall W6 2015/05045/FUL

Installation of CCTV cameras (4no to the north eastern elevation, 3no to the south western elevation and 1no to the north western elevation).

The Quadrangle 49 Atalanta Street SW6 2015/05016/FUL

Erection of a single storey glass extension to Unit 8 at southern elevation of the building.

15 Gowan Avenue SW6 2015/04982/FUL

Demolition of the existing building, with the exception of the front facade, and erection of a part one, part two, part three storey building plus basement level including front and rear lightwells for use as a single dwellinghouse.

Bus Shelter Outside 25-27 Shepherd's Bush Green London 2015/04861/ADV

Display of a freestanding internally illuminated double sided led screen on the public highway measuring 2.370m (height) x 1.338m (width) x 0.350m (depth).

The Quadrangle 49 Atalanta Street SW6 2015/05003/FUL

Alterations to the front elevation at second floor level including the installation of doors to replace the existing windows, replacement of the existing curved gable feature with a parapet between the pilasters and stone finials, installation of obscured glass panel balustrade and handrail to the northern boundary, in connection with the formation of roof terrace; installation of obscure film to the existing northern windows to the front elevation at second floor level.

The Quadrangle 49 Atalanta Street SW6 2015/05004/FUL

Erection of an extension at roof level to house an internal staircase; including erection of 1.1m (high) glass balustrades around the flat roof at roof level in connection the formation of a terrace; installation of 3no rooflights over the main flat roof at roof level.

The Vineyard 76 Hurlingham Road SW6 2015/05008/FUL

Demolition of existing single storey potting shed; partial demolition of boundary wall facing Bettridge Road.

FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT (DEMOLITION WORK) FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT

Westcott Lodge 22 Lower Mall W6 2015/05046/LBC

Installation of CCTV cameras (4no to the north eastern elevation, 3no to the south western elevation and 1no to the north western elevation). The Vineyard 76 Hurlingham Road SW6 2015/05009/LBC

Demolition of existing single storey potting shed; partial demolition of boundary wall facing Bettridge Road.

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING

Former BBC Television Centre Wood Lane W122015/02497/FUL

Alterations to south eastern elevation of BBC Studios 2 and 3 comprising installation of 10 louvred panels at second floor level and installation of new louvre window on Scenery runway elevation (Revised Description of Development).

618 Fulham Road SW6 2015/04969/FUL

Change of use of the ground floor from retail (Class A1) into a restaurant (Class A3); erection of rear extensions at ground and first floor level; installation of an extract flue at the rear of the property; installation of a new shopfront.

Westcott Lodge 22 Lower Mall W6 2015/05045/FUL

Installation of CCTV cameras (4no to the north eastern elevation, 3no to the south western elevation and 1no to the north western elevation).

22 Valliere Road NW10 2015/05025/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side of the existing back addition; and installation of 2no. rooflights in the front roofslope. Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 22nd November 2015. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2013 NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 22nd November 2015. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

Signed: **NIGEL PALLACE**

Executive Director for Transport and Technical Services on behalf of HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL

You can view applications, make comments and monitor their progress on our website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning. Click on the 'Planning Online' logo on the Planning Home Page.

You can also E-mail comments to: plancomments@lbhf.gov.uk You can also inspect details of applications using computers at our office RECEPTION FIRST FLOOR HAMMERSMITH TOWN HALL EXTENSION KING STREET W6 between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.

If you want to make comments on applications please E-mail them through our website or post them to **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE ENVIRONMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT TOWN HALL KING STREET W6 9JU** by the date shown above. Please include the application reference number and the name of the planning officer. We will try to consider any representations received after the date indicated but this cannot be guaranteed so please reply promptly. For initial enquiries call our information and reception service on **020 8753 1081** or **020 8753 1082**.



Send us your comments about planning applications via our website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning

Public Notices



**LONDON BOROUGH OF
HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(UXBRIDGE ROAD)**

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Thames Water works in Uxbridge Road, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed the bus lane on the north side of Uxbridge Road between its junctions with Tunis Road and Loftus Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in articles 2 will be not be required.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the Monday 23rd November 2015 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Monday 23rd November 2015 and last for 3 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 28th day of October 2015.

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

**LONDON BOROUGH OF
HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(RICKETT STREET/ROXBY PLACE)**

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Thames Water repair works in the above named road, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit traffic in the above named roads.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Rickett Street and Roxby Place.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be required.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on Monday, 23rd November 2015 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Monday, 23rd November 2015 and last for 2 weeks. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 12th day of October 2015.

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

**LONDON BOROUGH OF
HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(HAMMERSMITH ROAD)**

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility repair works in Hammersmith Road, it made an Order the effect of which would suspend a section of the northbound bus lane in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the north-eastbound bus lane on Hammersmith Road will be suspended between North End Road and Earsby Street.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be required.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the Monday, 9th November 2015 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Monday, 9th November 2015 and last for 3 day. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 28th day of October 2015.

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

**LONDON BOROUGH OF
HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(CARNWATH ROAD III)**

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate crane operation works in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which would prohibit traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Carnwath Road outside Nos. 82 to 104 Carnwath Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Peterborough Road and Sullivan Road.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on Saturday, 7th November 2015 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Saturday, 7th November 2015 and last for 2 days. With a back up start date scheduled for Saturday, 21st November 2015. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 28th day of October 2015.

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

**LONDON BOROUGH OF
HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(WATERFORD ROAD)**

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate british telecommunication works in Waterford Road, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in the left hand lane in the section of Waterford Road at its junction with New King's Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in articles 2 will be in place via New King's Road, Britannia Road and Moore Park Road
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the Monday 23rd November 2015 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Monday 23rd November 2015 and last for 2 day. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 28th day of October 2015.

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

**LONDON BOROUGH
OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
SECTION 14(1)
(BRADMORE PARK ROAD)**

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate Thames Water works in Bradmore Park Road, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in the left hand lane in the section of Bradmore Park Road at its junction with Glenthorne Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in articles 2 will be in place via Glenthorne Road, Beadon Road, Hammersmith Broadway, King Street, Studland Street, Glenthorne Road, Lamington Street and Atwood Road.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the Sunday 15th November 2015 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Sunday 15th November 2015 and last for 1 day. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 28th day of October 2015.

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

LONDON WEEKLY JOBS

Call: 0208 768 4919 Fax: 0208 776 8863 Email: candy.brown@slp.co.uk

BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM (PARKING PLACES, ZONE "G") (AMENDMENT No. 4) ORDER 2015 THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM (BUS LANE) (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT No. 5) ORDER 2015 THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM (WAITING AND LOADING RESTRICTION) (CONSOLIDATION) AMENDMENT (No. 52) ORDER 2015 THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM (LOADING BAY) AMENDMENT No. 14) ORDER 2015

- NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham made the above-mentioned Orders under the powers granted by sections 6, 45, 46, 49 and 124 of, and Part IV of Schedule 9 to, the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended.
- The general effect of the above Hammersmith and Fulham (Parking Places, Zones G)(Amendment No. 4) Order 2015, would be to further amend The Hammersmith and Fulham (Parking Places, Zone G) Order 2013 in so far that parking places would be amended and/or introduced and/or revoked in certain lengths of Woodger Road, Bamborough Gardens, Goldhawk Road and Pennard Rd.
- The general effect of the Hammersmith and Fulham (Bus Lane) (Consolidation) (Amendment No. 5) Order 2015 would be to amend the Hammersmith and Fulham (Bus Lane) (Consolidation) Order 2010 so as to :-
a) revoke sections of bus only route which lies in Goldhawk Rd.
b) reduce sections of bus only route which lies in Goldhawk Rd.
- The general effect of the Hammersmith and Fulham (Waiting and Loading Restriction) (Consolidation) (Amendment No. 52) Order 2015 would be to further amend the Hammersmith and Fulham (Waiting and Loading Restriction) (Consolidation) Order 2009 so that waiting and/or loading restrictions would be amended and/or introduced and/or revoked in certain lengths of Coverdale Road, Goldhawk Road, Hopgood Street, Lime Grove, Pennard Road, Richford Street, Titmuss Street.
- The general nature and effect of the Hammersmith and Fulham (Loading Bay) (Consolidation) (Amendment No. 14) Traffic Order 2015 would be to amend the Hammersmith and Fulham (Loading Bay) (Consolidation) Traffic Order 2011 so as to introduce and/or revoked loading bays on Pennard Road, Uxbridge Road, Firthville Gardens, Lime Grove, Pennard Road, Bamborough Gardens and Goldhawk Road.
- The general effect of the above mentioned Orders will all come into operation on the 6th November 2015.
- A copy of the Orders, the Councils statement of reasons for proposing to make the Orders and documents giving more detailed particulars of the Orders, can be inspected during normal office hours on Mondays to Fridays inclusive until the end of a period of 6 weeks beginning with the date on which the Orders are made, or as the case may be, the Council decides not to make the Orders
- Any person wishing to object to the Orders or make other representations should send a statement in writing to the following address: **Transport and Technical Services Group, Highways and Engineering Division, Environment Department, Town Hall Extension, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 9JU** until the expiration of 21 days from the date on which the notice is published.

Dated this 22nd day of October 2015

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

LICENSING ACT 2003

Application For Grant of Premises Licence

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that L 'AMI JAC' of 31 Kenley Walk, London W11 4XG has applied to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea for the grant of a Premises Licence to sell wine online. Collection from 8.00am to 8.00pm every day. No alcohol to be consumed on the premises for the premises L 'AMI JAC' situated at 31 Kenley Walk, London W11 4XG

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at <http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/environmentandtransport/licensingregisters.aspx> or at Council Offices, 37 Pembroke Road, London W8 6PW, Tel: 020 7341 5152, by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to my/our application must give notice in writing to the licensing authority at the address show above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 24th November 2015. The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Sub-Committee and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. In the case of an application for a provisional statement, please note that representations will be restricted once a statement has been issued.

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with a licensing application, and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for that offence shall not exceed level 5 on the standard scale (£5,000).

BRENDA ENID BELL

(Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925, notice is hereby given that any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 32A Verker Road, West Kensington, London W14 9JS, who died on 13/7/2014 are required to send written particulars to the undersigned on or before 13/11/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Chorus Law Ltd, Heron House,
Timothy's Bridge Road,
Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 9BX

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South London & MERCURY



Duty Coordinator

£21,311 per annum inclusive plus on call allowance (36 hours per week)

Following reorganisation, we are recruiting a second Duty Coordinator to support our operational teams. You will undertake a broad range of work co-ordination and administrative tasks such as creating staff rotas, arranging cover and responding to requests for support. You will ensure that information is passed on to the right people, so that a reliable and consistent level of support is provided and accurate up-to-date records are maintained.

The successful candidate will have:

- Excellent communication skills and the ability to deal sensitively with callers.

- Experience of administrative work and of maintaining and reporting from a database.
- Excellent organisation and team working abilities.

● Experience of supporting people with learning disabilities.

We offer a friendly working environment, regular supervision and training opportunities.

For an application pack please visit **Lambeth Mencap** website.

Please note that we do not accept CVs.

Closing date: Friday 27th November 2015

Interview date: Wednesday 9th December 2015

Equality and Diversity is central to all we do.



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KINDERGARTEN & INFANTS' SCHOOL

EARLY YEARS PRACTITIONER

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LONDON WEEKLY NEWS

sport

Rangers stung by Bees after 50 years

RANGERS had gone 50 years without losing a competitive fixture to their west London neighbours Brentford but that long wait ended in misery for the R's just five-odd miles up the road at Griffin Park.

That's three London derby losses to nil this season for R's, who capitulated 4-0 at Fulham in September while their 2-0 defeat at Charlton back in August now looks even worse with second-bottom Addicks fast plunging towards the trap door into League One.

Speaking ahead of Tuesday's testing trip to Championship promotion-chasing Derby County, QPR head coach Chris Ramsey said: "I feel for the fans, of course I do. We understand there's a lot of bragging rights connected to these fixtures.

"It will be a sleepless night for me tonight, thinking about them going home with another loss in a derby. But we can only do our best to try and bounce back."

Not even the return of star striker Charlie Austin, on as a substitute for the last half an hour following five weeks out with a hamstring injury, could make any difference to the outcome of QPR's first visit to Brentford in 11 years.

Massimo Luongo was twice denied by the frame of the goal in the first half, before Marco Djuricin's 56th minute winner gave Bees a lead they never looked like relinquishing in front of the Sky TV cameras.

After two consecutive clean sheets, it was an awful way to concede

the game. Skipper Nedom Onuoha inexplicably stopped and tried to play an offside that was never on, allowing Alan Judge to run into acres of space behind R's back four before whipping a low cross into the near-post for Djuricin, arriving ahead of his marker Clint Hill, to slam home past Robert Green.

But it wasn't only R's defenders who were culpable. Jay Emmanuel-Thomas, the

was tame.

But whether they are fresh out of the Premier League or not, R's have no right to expect to beat any team in the second tier.

When fans abuse Ramsey for perceived underachievement, they need to take a reality check and ask themselves if any other manager the club is likely to attract now could do any better.

Could Neil Warnock, for example, make R's harder to beat, while at the same time inject more firepower at the other end? Very doubtful.

QPR finished bottom of the pile last season for a good reason – their players simply weren't good enough. Whether



LOFTUS ROAD RANGERS REVIEW With Tony McDonald

team, but we created the more clear-cut chances. We hit the post twice in the first half and we need to keep on creating those chances. "Unfortunately, if you don't take your opportunities, the momentum swings. Those missed chances have ultimately cost us. "We're defending better now. Unfortunately, we gave the ball away too much at times tonight and surrendered possession cheaply for the goal.

extra leg work.

"But, all in all, we still created chances. We just couldn't take them."

Ramsey eluded to the inconsistency that plagues his and most other Championship teams by adding: "We're still a work-in-progress. With a little more luck, we could have got something this evening.

"There's still a long way to go – I still believe there's much more to come from this group of players.

"Yes, we know we can improve on certain areas of our game but this defeat feels harsh."



■ **CHARLIE Austin** returned from injury and how R's need him to quickly get back on the goalscoring trail

hero of their recent home win over MK Dons, lost the ball in a key area of the field to hand Brentford the initiative.

At the other end, Matt Phillips should have scored but his header

they are capable of even reaching the play-offs this season remains to be seen. In the meantime, expect them to be consistently inconsistent. Ramsey said: "I thought Brentford played some slick football tonight, they're a good

Brentford are a good passing side. That meant we had to do

FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Saturday, November 7
Stoke City v CHELSEA, 5.30
FULHAM v Birmingham City, 3.00
QPR v Preston North End, 3.00

BETTINE BANTER

WITH Fulham scoring goals for fun these days, it's reasonable to believe that at least one of Whites' strikers will be among the Championship's leading scorers at the end of the season.

I'm tempted to have a crafty fiver on in-form Moussa Dembélé, who added two more to his tally in Saturday's big win at Bristol City. The teenager has now scored four goals in his last two games and eight in 16 appearances in all competitions this season.

Before Tuesday's visit to Burnley, you could back the young Frenchman at odds of 33-1 (34.0) with Betway – and it wouldn't be the worst outside bet of your life.

At 13-1 (14.0), his Fulham team-mate Ross McCormack is joint third favourite (along with Nick Blackman and Andre Gray) behind Chris Martin (Derby, 7-1) and Jordan Rhodes

(Blackburn, 8-1). By scoring once in Saturday's 4-1 cruise at Bristol City, McCormack stayed level with Dembélé on seven league goals each for the season.

But west London has a third contender who many seem to be overlooking. After five weeks on the sidelines, Charlie Austin is still only two goals behind Championship pacesetter Blackman (Reading).

QPR's fans who know the striker's capabilities might fancy a punt on him at a best-price of 20-1 (21.0) with Bet Victor and Betfair. Despite his absence, his first 10 games of this season yielded seven goals and if Austin quickly recaptures his scoring touch, those odds will shorten rapidly.

Austin is a proven goalscorer – he plundered 17 in a side rock bottom of the Premier League last season – and if he can avoid further injuries this campaign, he

should be there or thereabouts in the final Championship goals reckoning.

No doubt Chelsea fans laughed at last week's banter item about the Essex-based punter who, at the start of the season, had seven quid on Blues to be relegated at odds of 2,000-1. Well, I hear the latest debacle at Stamford Bridge had him feverishly searching for his betting slip in order to put it somewhere nice and safe, just in case ...

We know it won't happen but that hasn't stopped bookies from slashing those odds against the unthinkable from 1,000-1 to 500-1, although cautious Coral are only offering 100-1 against Blues going down.

For those of you not afraid to back at odds-on, Coral are the best priced 8/13 (1.62) about Chelsea NOT to finish in the top four.

Good luck – and always bet responsibly.

Tony McDonald



■ **ROSS McCormack** scored from a long-range free-kick at Bristol.

■ **FULHAM continued from back page**

"Obviously, especially first half, I thought we were excellent and we scored four very good goals," said manager Kit Symons.

"But as clinical as it was first half, we had some very good opportunities in the early part of the second half to really kill the game off. "I said to the players afterwards, 'you can't be too critical after a performance and a result like that but I want us to be the very best we can be'. So there were occasions where our defending and decision-making could have been better and we could have been a bit more clinical.

"But to score four goals away from home is an achievement, and we played very well."

Symons has been accused by fans of being tactically naive and inflexible but at Bristol he showed he can adapt tactics to suit certain situations. Fulham's 5-3-2 – or 3-5-2 when on the offensive – cut City to ribbons. Make no mistake, Whites are one of the best passing teams in the division and players who are comfortable on the ball. And when they attack in numbers, they can easily overwhelm teams, as Reading and Bristol City have found to their cost.

Symons continued: "We changed our shape today, it's something I've been looking at doing for quite a while. I thought we had the right personnel to do that and it sort of

matched up with them, nullified their threat and caused them problems."

Such is the fickle nature of football, some of the fans who were booing and calling for Symons' head just a week or so earlier must have been choking on large helpings of humble pie before half-time at Bristol City.

Dembélé's brace takes him to eight goals for the season – five of which have come in the last three games – and getting the teenager's signature on a new contract has become a priority.

Real goal threat

"He's a bright young player, who's at a football club where he'll be worked and developed," he said. "He's looking a real goal threat and myself and the coaching staff know him very, very well from his time with the under-18s and 21s.

"He's got the likes of Alan Curbishley who can give him help and advice – he sat him in the office on Thursday and went through some clips with him, so he's at a brilliant club for his development. And he is developing, almost on a weekly basis. There's a lot of things we've asked him to improve on and he's stepping up to the plate and doing that."

Dembélé and Fulham hope to stay on the goals trail this Saturday, when Birmingham City, who have a decent away defensive record, visit Craven Cottage.

Backing for Jose

■ **Continued from back page**

"Of course. We still go about every game like we used to last season. Still the same way, the same tactics, nothing has changed. He is still the same. If you are not doing things right, he gives it to you. It's just the results are not coming."

But Mourinho is not adverse to criticising players despite absorbing most of the criticism himself, is he?

"He has come out a few times and said that players are not giving 100 per cent. And then you look at the next games and the players came out and performed better. I think he is doing everything that needs to be done and, inside the dressing room, we believe he is the man to change things. He knows this club inside out, he knows what is wrong, and it's just

a matter of time before the results come right," Mikel added.

Following Saturday's 3-1 defeat by Liverpool Mourinho was in a testy mood, quite happy to challenge anyone who dared to question his authority.

In the post-match press conference he tried to hold his tongue for fear that whatever he said could land him with another FA fine.

When asked for his thoughts on the result, he said: "No, I would like to listen more than being questioned."

But when asked how could a team that cantered to the league title last season be as comprehensively beaten as they were, Mourinho's response was sarcastic and prickly: "Did you arrive now or see the game ... did you see the game?"

SPORT

Thursday, November 5th, 2015

● SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427

Mikel backs Mourinho

DESPITE intense and growing speculation, Jose Mourinho won't be sacked this week and will be given time to turn Stamford Bridge back into a fortress and propel Chelsea back up the Premier League.

LWN Sport understands that Chelsea's football board will honour the commitment of support they handed to Mourinho last month after the 3-1 home defeat to Southampton.

However, since then Blues have won just once in five games, culminating in Saturday's 3-1 home reverse to Liverpool.

We went to press ahead of Wednesday's home Champions League group match against Dynamo Kiev which precedes Saturday's league visit to Stoke City. Under normal circumstances two wins would be expected. But these are not normal circumstances.

Mourinho, certainly on the surface, seems to have the support of the three main elements that will determine his future – the board, fans and players.

● By LWN reporter **Paul Lagan**
sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Midfielder John Obi Mikel has come out fighting and vocal in his support for Mourinho, insisting that the Portuguese is the right man to lead Chelsea out of the doldrums.

The Nigerian, 28, who has made more than 220 appearances at SW6, was also frustrated at the result against Liverpool at the weekend.

Difficult game

"We knew it was going to be a difficult game," he said. "I think we started well. It was a good performance. We played well. We got the goal and, you know, if we went into the break 1-0 up, it would have been much easier.

"But I think the referee played two minutes and 30 seconds or something like that extra. If he had played the exact minutes, we would have been 1-0 up and it would have been easier."

With referee Mark Clattenberg not giving Chelsea that boost, his bizarre decision not to brandish a second yellow card to Lucas in the second half for an obvious foul on Ramires certainly rankled Mikel.

"A few minutes before, he gave me a yellow card for my first foul," he said. "And then after that, Lucas commits the foul when Ramires was going to goal and then he brought him down. For me, and for everyone else, it should have been a yellow card."

While Mikel does not necessarily subscribe to the notion of a conspiracy against his team, he does sense things are not going their way.

"Everyone can see how much hard work we are putting in," he said. "We work hard in training, we are playing well, it's just the results are not coming for us. You know, every shot on our goal is going in, every deflection is a goal. So we need a bit of luck which we don't have at the minute."

With support for Mourinho evident from fans and board, does Mikel believe the players are playing for the manager?

"Well, you can see from the performance at West

This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE



Ham, when we had 10 men, that we were the better team. We scored a goal to come back but conceded a late goal by Andy Carroll.

"And then against Stoke in the Capital One Cup, we dominated the game, played well, came back from 1-0 down, but it went to penalties.

"Against Liverpool you can see how in the first half we should have been two or three-nil up. It's just that the goals are not coming. The wins are not coming but you can see that we are playing for the manager, we are right behind him. There is no doubt about it. If anyone can turn things around, he is definitely the one."

Mikel has been at Stamford Bridge since joining from Norwegian side Lyn Oslo in 2006 and has seen Roman Abramovich sack numerous managers – even Mourinho. So does he sense times have changed and Jose will stay?

"In terms of the way the club is, Chelsea has progressed," he suggests. "The players are changing, newer players, more technical players. Back then, you could say we had more physical players, we bullied opponents, we pushed them. But now we have more technical players who can pass the ball around and want the ball all the time.

"In terms of playing, I think the club has changed a lot. In terms of any other thing, the hierarchy, I don't know anything about that. But on the pitch, we have definitely changed.

"Everyone gets older. You grow up as a person when you grow with age. You deal with things differently. Mourinho still demands 100 per cent from the players but in a more calm, mature way.

"Tactically, he is better. That's why when he came back we won the league in the second season. I know the demand in this club is to win and win but we are just going through a difficult time right now. He is the man to deal with it.

Still behind him

"He definitely deserves the chance. You can see from the fans that they are still behind him. The players are too and we will turn things around. It's just a matter of time.

"Last year we were champions, we won two trophies," he said. "Jose knows this club more than any other manager. I think he is the most successful manager in Chelsea's history. So I definitely think that if anything is wrong, he is the one to fix it. There is no-one out there who can come in.

"If you tell me that we are not giving 100 per cent, then there is a doubt. But we are giving 100 per cent, we are playing for the manager. I don't think our performances are showing otherwise."

So is there a determination in the changing room to put things right?



Focus on Craven Cottage

By TONY McDONALD

Fulham start the fireworks

ON fire Fulham are out on their own as the Championship's hot-shots after slamming four goals past their opponents for the second time in a week.

In fact, they have done much better than that. Whites have scored EIGHT goals in their last 76 minutes of football – an average of one less than every 10 minutes.

Moussa Dembélé (2), Ross McCormack and Ryan Tunnicliffe all netted in the first 36 minutes of Saturday's emphatic 4-1 victory at Bristol City before the Robins claimed a consolation in the 93rd minute.

On the back of their 4-2 home win over Reading seven days earlier, in which all four home goals came in a 40-minute second half frenzy, this latest result means Fulham have scored 26 times – more than any other second tier side this season.

If they hadn't conceded as many as 20 from their first 14 league matches, Fulham would have been even closer than four points and four places away from the play-off positions prior to Tuesday's tough trip to third-placed Burnley.



● GOALS galore ... plenty for Fulham players and fans to celebrate of late.

■ Continued on page 27

■ Continued on page 27